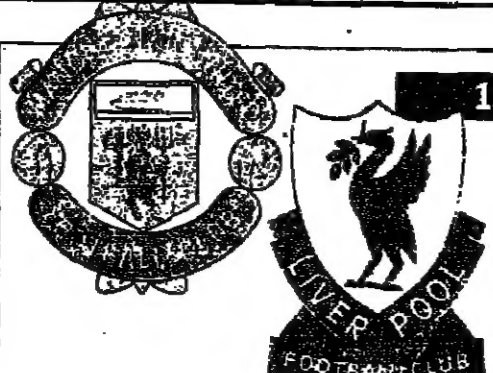


MATTHEW PARRIS
Columnist of the Year on mad newspaper disease
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GARDENING
Video offer: Choose Royal Horticultural Society tapes for just £1.98 each
Details, Token: P33



12 PAGES OF SPORT
Manchester United and Liverpool go through to the Cup final: Grand National and the Brazilian Grand Prix



HOW LIFE BEGAN
The moment when animals took off to conquer the air: Part 1 of Richard Dawkins's new book
PAGE 14

Clarke offered referendum deal

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Major tries to heal rift as fears grow that Chancellor could quit

JOHN MAJOR is preparing for a showdown this week with Kenneth Clarke over plans for a referendum on a single currency.

The meeting will come amid deepening anxiety in senior Tory circles that the Chancellor might resign if his strongly held objections are overruled. Either today or tomorrow, Mr Major will offer Mr Clarke a deal intended to swing him behind the firm view in Downing Street and Conservative Central Office that a referendum pledge is essential.

The Prime Minister will promise this Chancellor that if he accepts a

plebiscite, he will ensure that in any national campaign, Cabinet ministers do not then argue against a single currency. But Mr Major's efforts to resolve the three-week impasse have been complicated by Michael Heseltine's reluctance to side with the Cabinet majority in favour of a referendum.

The referendum argument, sparked off by Mr Major's Commons announcement on March 7 that the proposal was under serious consideration, has opened up a serious Cabinet rift. Mr Major,

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, are pitted against Mr Clarke. Mr Heseltine and John Gummer, the Environment Secretary.

The Prime Minister wants the matter settled at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting in time for an announcement before the Easter recess. But he will not risk another bout of open Cabinet warfare. If he cannot secure private assurances from Mr Clarke and Mr Heseltine

that they will support his compromise of a referendum tied to collective Cabinet responsibility, Mr Major is prepared to delay and risk the wrath of pro-referendum ministers.

Mr Rifkind's paper on the wider implications of a referendum will not be circulated to Cabinet ministers until the Prime Minister is confident of an agreement.

Insiders are divided over how seriously to take the threat of a resignation by Mr Clarke. Senior ministers said yesterday that it

would be "incredible" for him to quit because he did not want to give the British people the final say over the pound.

Close associates of the Prime Minister also played down the threat, saying that while Mr Clarke was "taking the argument to the edge", Mr Major was determined to avoid provoking a walkout and would play for time.

But one source said that a "Mexican stand-off" had developed between the Chancellor and the Prime Minister. The risk was that

Mr Clarke might take his opposition to a referendum to such lengths that he might feel he could only maintain his credibility by resigning.

It is understood that the Chancellor has told the Prime Minister that conceding a referendum would be a surrender to the Eurosceptics. A source said: "He thinks we would be giving into Teresa [Gorman]. But this should not be seen as a game in which we are agreeing with a group of MPs in the House. We are listening to the party at

large and the vast majority of the British electorate."

Yesterday, Sir Teddy Taylor, one of the former Whipless Tory Euro-rebels, said that Mr Clarke should not be allowed to stand in the way of backing for a referendum.

"Mr Clarke should really be dumped in the Thames for this because it is not fair to carry on Cabinet battles in the press," the Southend East MP said on GMTV's Sunday Programme.

"The referendum is the way. And I don't think that Mr Clarke is the kind of person with a big personal following. My feeling is that he will go along with it."

Leading article, page 17

Water giants will have to compete for customers

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND GRAHAM SERJEANT

FAR-REACHING plans to cut bills and improve services to water consumers will be announced by the Government today. They are designed to smash the monopoly enjoyed by the ten giant regional water companies and end pay, perks and profits excesses that have tarnished the privatisation image.

The plan to inject competition into the industry will initially benefit big industrial users of water. But ministers intend that in a few years domestic customers will be able to buy their water from a range of companies.

They see their proposals as a conclusive answer to the "fat cats" controversies over pay rises for the directors of privatised water companies. By creating a genuinely free market, ministers believe bosses will have to moderate their salaries and share deals.

One senior ministerial source said yesterday that the plan would help to neutralise Labour attacks. "The issue should be privatisation versus nationalisation, not state versus nationalisation."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will announce the shake-up today. The Government intends to bring in legislation later in the year to allow "common carriage" under which competing suppliers would have access to local pipe networks. It is understood that plans for a national water grid, linking all reservoirs and rivers, have been ruled out as too expensive.

But ministers see scope for more modest tie-ups in which

pipelines could be constructed between neighbouring reservoirs. The water in customers' taps would come from their local company but the bill would come from the one with the supply contract. Companies would sell water to one another to meet orders.

The shake-up was foreshadowed by John Major in his speech to Tory activists in Harrogate at the weekend. He said that privatisation had cut prices to telecommunications and gas—all industries where competing firms use a common national network.

"This has not happened in the water industry—yet. But it will. We're going to introduce competition into the water industry as well," he said.

Since the water industry was privatised in 1989, household bills have soared almost as fast as the pay of the directors of the ten biggest companies. Total profits currently stand at a record £1.6 billion a year.

Last January, Labour disclosed that 25 water company directors became at least £500,000 better off as a result of privatisation—including five new millionaires.

In August Ofwat, the regulator, said that the average family was paying £211 for its water, up from £119 at privatisation. Shareholder payouts had increased at four times the rate of inflation. Total profits rose by almost 150 per cent. Northumbrian Water's profits increased 804 per cent.

Until now, competition has had little impact. New suppliers had to put in their own pipelines. Quality varied widely, but much of the £15 billion invested after privatisation has been used to bring all supplies up to minimum standards.



Rough Quest, the first favourite in 14 years to win the Grand National, was the toast of Beare Green, Surrey, yesterday when he was paraded before a delighted crowd outside his stables by his trainer, Terry Cassey (left), and his jockey, Mick Fitzgerald. Race report: page 29

Oxford 'at risk from outdated methods'

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

OXFORD University's ancient structure is threatening its place as a world-beating academic centre, management consultants have said in a report recommending sweeping changes.

Proposals designed to speed up decision-making and give outsiders a voice in the university's affairs have been presented to a Commission of Inquiry, which is due to report before the year's end. The consultants' plan would bring the first major change in Oxford's system of government for 30 years.

The two management consultants from Coopers & Lybrand make a series of stinging criticisms. They say the university's international reputation for research is in jeopardy, there is no stimulus for change in the curriculum and few dons understand the way the university works.

Many noted how much

Continued on page 2, col 3

Oxford elite, page 7

Railtrack: Let the car take the strain

By OLIVER AUGUST

EMPLOYEES of Railtrack are to be told today that using the train is putting a strain on its finances and that in future they should travel by road when on business.

A memo to all 11,000 employees states that rail travel may not be the cheapest option, especially when going to remote areas. When travelling in groups a hire car or taxi is often more economical.

A Railtrack spokesman explained that since privatisation, the track operator has to pay train operators for its employees' fares. "It wouldn't be fair if the east coast operator had to subsidise the trip of a Railtrack employee

from London to Newcastle. We are saying to the staff: use the cheapest possible means of transport," he said.

"Train journeys are no longer free for us, so we want the staff to think about it before they start. Some journeys are just too time-consuming by train and often it is cheaper for a group of employees travelling together to hire a car."

Employees of Railtrack will only be able to travel free by rail during emergencies or to get to the scene of an accident.

Staff joining Railtrack from today will no longer receive perks such as free travel to work and privileged tickets. For decades, British Rail staff

enjoyed free passes as well as quarter-price tickets for their families. Executives, however, will retain some benefits such as first-class passes for business and private journeys.

Rail unions and politicians attacked the end of free travel for railway staff. The Rail Maritime and Transport union said it will seek urgent talks with Railtrack, which owns and operates tracks, signals and stations.

Jimmy Knapp, the RMT general secretary, said: "This is yet another example of the bizarre world of privatisation. Railtrack is at the heart of the railway industry, yet they are telling their staff not to use the



railways." Brian Wilson, Labour's transport spokesman, said it was a "breach of assurances given during passage of the Railways Act through Parliament".

Yeltsin ceasefire

President Yeltsin, concerned about his re-election campaign, announced a ceasefire and partial troop withdrawal from Chechnya — Page 11

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New QCs invited to be plastic personalities

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS say it is the pinnacle of their career. The day they become a Queen's Counsel is a traditional rite of passage that brings status and wealth. Now, the moment can be preserved for posterity—in plastic.

New QCs, rigged out in full-bottomed wigs, silk gown and breeches, ruffles and jabot, can have the day they "take silk" encapsulated as a key-ring, a fridge magnet or even a desk pen set. The more adventurous could have their images reproduced in a pair of book-ends, a heart-shaped box or paperweight.

The new range of photographic memorabilia is the brainchild of Cameo Photography, a firm in Whetstone, north London, which takes all



Key role: the fob Cherie Booth was given after taking silk last year

the pictures of the silks ceremony at the House of Lords every Maundy Thursday. This Thursday another 80 or so barristers will join the top ranks and find themselves in plastic key fobs. Irene Niven, a director of the firm, said: "We got the idea from

America. Last year we gave all the new QCs key fobs free. And we offer them a range of other products which they can then order throughout the year—heart-shaped boxes, for instance, on Valentine's Day."

One QC had ordered ten key fobs at

Christmas, she said. The "sculptures" were also popular, depicting the QC in stand-out form, with the assembled ranks of the other novitiates behind.

A pair of book-ends costs £65; a letter rack £30; a pen set (two pens) £40.50; and a note-holder £23. Keyrings and fridge magnets cost £10.50 each. The idea has yet to take off in a profession renowned for its conservatism and QCs seem remarkably coy about taking the chance to buy the products.

Cherie Booth, QC, who took silk last year, said: "It was very kind of them to send me the key fob—it's on the spare ignition key. The children have a bit of a laugh about it. But, no, I think I prefer the traditional photographs."

Ms Booth, who is married to Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said she would not be buying the products.

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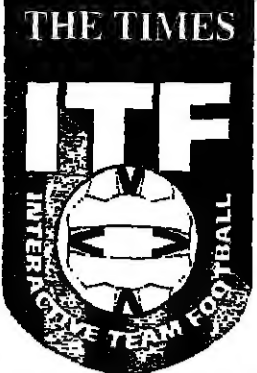
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THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

PLAY TO WIN
See how your Interactive Team Football players are performing
PLUS: Libby Purves, and Dr Thomas Stuttaford's Medical Briefing



WEDNESDAY



Win a home office in our weekly guide to new technology
PLUS: Property, Media and Nigella Lawson

THURSDAY



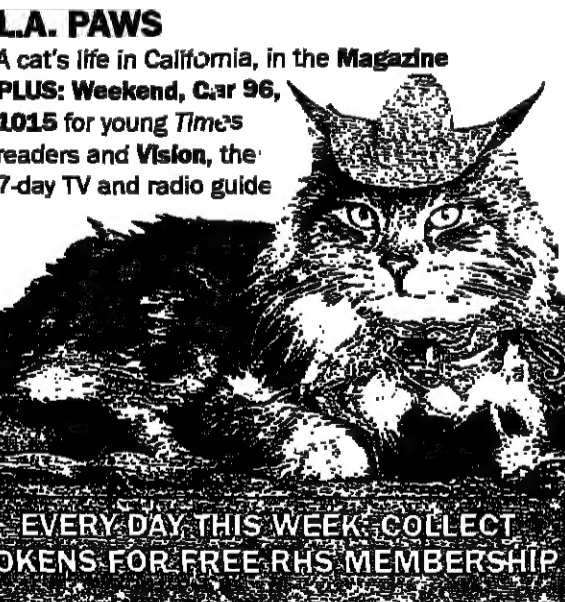
FILM OF THE WEEK
Kevin Spacey in the Hollywood comedy *Swimming With Sharks*
PLUS: Health, Books and Travel News

FRIDAY



POP
Retro Sixties: the new album from Ocean Colour Scene
PLUS: The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY



L.A. PAWS
A cat's life in California, in the *Magazine*
PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young *Times* readers and *Vision*, the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: COLLECT TOKENS FOR FREE RHS MEMBERSHIP

Blair welcomes chance of TV duel with Major

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR welcomed indications yesterday that the next election could be the setting for the first televised head-to-head debate between a prime minister and a leader of the opposition. Conservative Central Office is considering an American-style contest before the cameras.

It is understood that Tory officials are thinking of conceding the idea if Labour is well ahead in the polls at the beginning of an election campaign. They admitted it would be seen as a "desperation" tactic and

emphasised no decisions had been taken. It appears that informal talks have been held with broadcasters.

Convention has it that prime ministers do not give challengers equal status by appearing on the same platform. Neil Kinnock's appeals for televised debates with Margaret Thatcher in 1987 and John Major in 1992 were rejected for this reason.

Hugh Colver, former director of communications at Central Office, said on GMTV yesterday that, if the Tories were trailing badly in the polls, they would have nothing to lose by agreeing a contest. His hunch was

that Mr Major would surprise people by winning the debate. Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, played down the possibility, while not ruling it out. He told *On the Record* on BBC television: "Whether we have a debate between Mr Major and Mr Blair is something which we may turn our minds to."

Michael Portillo was more dismissive. Speaking on LWT's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme, he said: "I'm not sure it brings out the best in politics. I think it brings out the best in one-liners, the catchphrases, and I'm not sure that is the best way to conduct an election campaign."

Mr Blair said he would "delighted" to take on Mr Major before millions of viewers and challenged the Prime Minister to bring forward the moment by calling an early election. "I am taking this more or less as a firm offer, in which case it is accepted with alacrity," he told *Breakfast with Frost* on the BBC.

"If they want to have a debate there is a very simple way of having it, which is to bring forward the date of the election. I don't believe there is any purpose or reason in governing left for this Government."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, backed the idea but

Tory strategists were wary of allowing what they regard as an unfair "two against one" contest.

Mr Ashdown said: "Liberal Democrats have called consistently for this. It is a marvellous way for voters to get involved in the big questions on the British agenda. What is important now is to get the whole issue out of the hands of politicians pushing for relative advantage, and into the hands of broadcasting authorities, or some other respected independent body, to draw up the ground rules and issue the invitations."

Peter Riddell, page 16

Brussels will meet 50% of beef crisis action costs

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN can expect the European Union to meet at least half the bill for any action agreed to restore consumer confidence in beef and calm public panic over "mad cow" disease, a European Commissioner said yesterday.

The promise came as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, prepared for emergency talks with his EU colleagues in Luxembourg today on proposals ranging from a selective slaughter of the British cattle herd to tightened controls on animal feed.

Mr Hogg's political future is in the balance. He is understood to have told the Prime Minister he is prepared to resign over his handling of the beef crisis, which has led to a worldwide ban on British beef exports worth more than £600 million a year.

There was support for Mr Hogg yesterday, however, from Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, who said: "I do not see why Douglas Hogg should take blame upon himself and I do not see why anybody should seek to put it upon him."

Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, said other EU countries were genuinely sympathetic to the plight of Britain's beleaguered beef industry and ready to help to pay for any agreed measures.

Speaking on *Breakfast with Frost* on the BBC, Sir Leon said: "It depends on the scheme that is put forward but different schemes get different co-operation which ranges from 100 per cent to 70 per cent

to 50 per cent. So we are talking about real, serious contributions.

"No decision has been taken, either by Britain or by Britain with the Community, as to exactly what has to be done. Everybody has accepted that what one is now talking about is not just measures that are scientifically necessary but measures to restore public confidence."

Neil Kinnock, Britain's junior European Commissioner, confirmed reports that any money put up by Brussels would be clawed back in part from the annual rebate negotiated by the Government on its payments to the EU budget.

"The UK is a contributor to the Common Agricultural Fund and to that extent, in getting support in dealing with all the difficulties that have arisen in this crisis, the money paid in by Britain will be part of the fund paying out to Britain," he told *Crosstalk* on LWT.

Today's talks in Luxembourg are expected to focus on a proposal for incinerating up to 15,000 older cows which are slaughtered every week instead of allowing them to be used for food. This could cost at least £500 million a year.

Most of these animals are dairy and suckler cows at the end of their working lives. They are turned into products such as meat pies. They are old enough to have been born when farmers were still using the contaminated cattle feed thought to have caused BSE.

Matthew Parris, page 16



Douglas Hogg, who was defended by Michael Portillo over the BSE crisis yesterday

Move on farming 'red tape'

THE Government is reviewing food hygiene regulations with its European Union partners as part of a drive to reduce the burden of "red tape" on business and farmers (Michael Hornsby writes).

Questioned about reports that the Government planned to scrap some regulations, Michael Heseltine said no changes would be contemplated that would prejudice public health. Interviewed on Radio

4's *The World This Weekend*, the Deputy Prime Minister said: "We will always look at the regulatory proposals against the absolute standards of safety, health, national interest. If there is any question of risks, however small, we will not do it."

The Ministry of Agriculture said: "There is an on-going programme of looking at all regulations to reduce unnecessary red tape but there would

certainly be no question of scrapping anything that is needed to safeguard public health."

A consultation document is to be issued later this month by the European Commission's agricultural directorate proposing ways of making EU food hygiene regulations less complex.

The document will be based in part on submissions by member states.

Boy dies on night adventure

The body of a 12-year-old boy was found in a burnt-out garage yesterday. He had been sleeping rough with friends as an outdoor adventure. Thomas Flynn is believed to have died from smoke inhalation after starting in the garage where the boys were using candles.

Thomas and two friends, also 12, had told their parents they were staying at each others' homes in Waltham Abbey, Essex, but they camped out near their homes with mattresses and blankets.

GPs reform

Fundholding family doctors will cover more than half the population for the first time from today. The number of practices that manage their own budgets and buy health care from hospitals is increasing from 2,400 to about 3,600, covering 53 per cent of the population, up from 41 per cent a year ago.

400,000 jobs lost

Britain's 100 biggest companies have shed almost 400,000 jobs over a five-year period, with 280,000 going in 1994 and 1995 alone, according to a survey. The cuts are blamed mainly on a combination of relentless competition, technology and global restructuring. BT leads the list with 88,500 jobs lost.

Wordy winners

The Edinburgh Regional Final of *The Times* Aberdeen Crossword Championship was won yesterday by John Henderson, 32, a lecturer in psychology at the City of Westminster College. He completed the four puzzles in an average of 74 minutes. The doubles title went to Patricia McBryde of Edinburgh and Dr Edward Lascombe. Letters, page 17

Oxford 'outdated'

Continued from page 1
easier it was to stop a decision than to make a positive one," it says.

"A system that requires a disproportionate amount of time to understand and can then be manipulated by the few who have the time to make the effort can hardly be described as democratic — and it certainly does not serve to produce much sense of accountability."

Quentin Thompson and Clare Matterson, whose report has been circulated among senior academics, paint a picture of outmoded and inefficient procedures holding back development in teaching and research.

They recommend a streamlined system with stronger central administration and more power for subject spe-

cialists at the expense of the colleges. Although most dons have yet to see the report — its recommendations are already encountering resistance. Heads of college said measures intended to protect research could have a damaging effect on their ability to deliver world-class teaching. Others questioned the need for bureaucratic change.

The consultants' findings may presage a battle later in the year, when the Commission, chaired by Dr Peter North, Oxford's Vice-Chancellor, produces its final report.

Coopers & Lybrand was brought in more than a year ago. It interviewed more than 200 university members and a number of outsiders.

Oxford elite, page 7

Jesus was a Mason, Scholar casts doubt on Christ's casket

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

JESUS was a Freemason and grandmaster of an ultra-conservative Jewish sect, a book published this week claims.

Using the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls and other texts, the authors of *The Hiram Key* claim the Passion narratives of the New Testament date from resurrection rituals of ancient Egypt and are enshrined in initiation ceremonies of Freemasonry.

Christopher Knight and Robert Lomas, both Masons, argue that Jesus and his brother James used masonic-style rituals to establish the "kingdom of heaven" on earth, and that Jesus's resurrection had

no element of the supernatural but ritually denoted rebirth into a brotherhood.

They also say that Freemasonry, normally held to have begun in the Middle Ages, originated with the building of King Solomon's Temple 3,000 years ago. They suggest that Jesus's problems might have involved the betrayal of a masonic-style secret and that he was a leading figure in the Essene community at Qumran, which, they say, was set up along masonic lines.

The Roman Catholic Church, which proscribes Freemasonry, dismissed the claims. Mgr Kieran Conry said: "This sounds like an attempt to give credibility to Freemasons."

A LEADING biblical scholar has dismissed the discovery in Jerusalem of burial caskets bearing the names Jesus, Mary and Joseph as no more than "an interesting coincidence" (Ruth Gledhill writes). Others believe more research is needed to establish whether the empty relics, found in a tomb, could be those of the Holy Family.

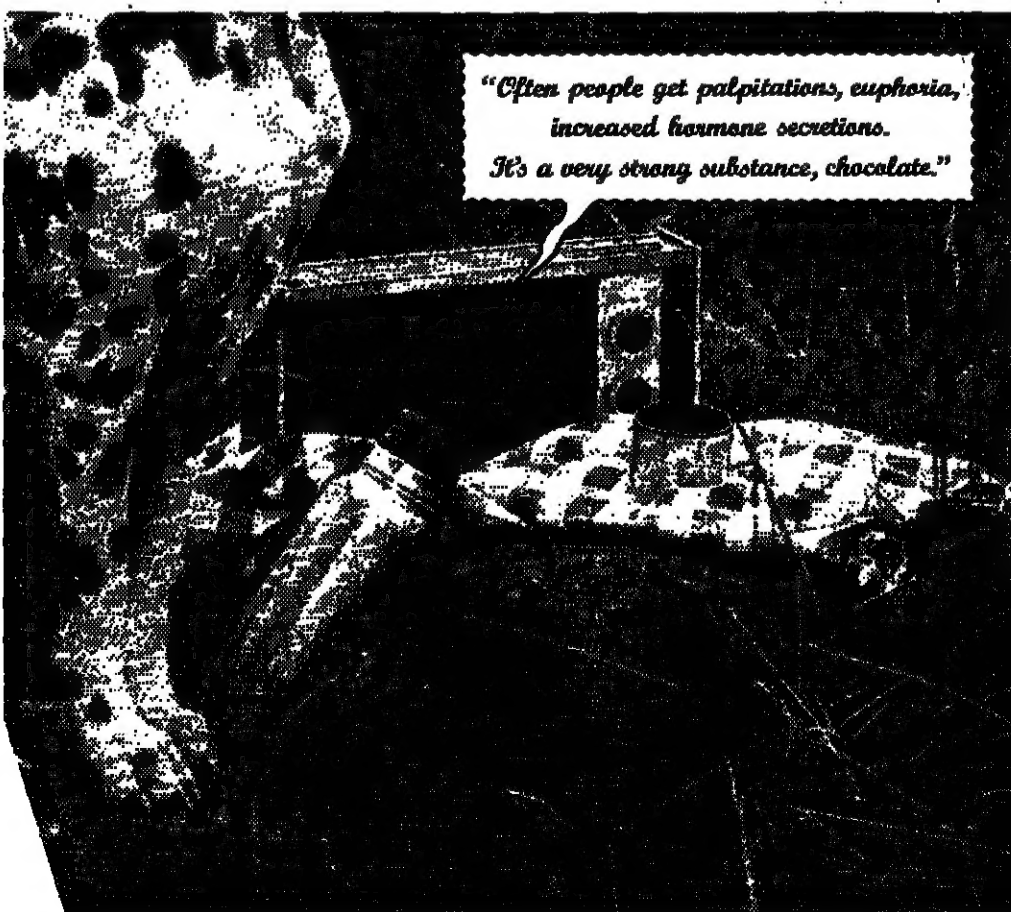
Dr Tom Wright, the Dean of Lichfield, said it was "laughable" that anyone could have tended the body of Jesus without it becoming public knowledge. "I can see no other explanation than that the body was resurrected."

The caskets bearing the names were discovered in an Israeli museum warehouse

owned by the Israel Antiquities Authority by the makers of the BBC's *Heart of the Matter*. The caskets bear the names Jesus, son of Joseph; Mary; Joseph; Yehuda son of Jesus; and Matthew. There is also another Mary, possibly that of Mary Magdalene. They contained no bones because of vandalism.

Dr Wright said: "These were very common names at the time and it would be like someone in 2,000 years' time claiming to have found the tomb of the Royal Family because it contained the names Charles, son of Philip; Andrew and Diana."

The programme, called *The Body in Question*, will be screened on Easter Day.



"Often people get palpitations, euphoria, increased hormone secretions. It's a very strong substance, chocolate."

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إذاعة القرآن الكريم

Mother opposed Carol's book

Thatcher marriage 'a partnership of two selfish people'

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A BOOK by Carol Thatcher that portrays her mother as distant and terrifying and describes her parents' relationship as a partnership between two selfish people was privately opposed by Baroness Thatcher.

The biography of Sir Denis Thatcher, *Below the Parapet*, is an intimate portrait of life in one of the world's most famous families and caused occasional heated rows in the Thatcher household. Sir Denis, 80, gave a series of interviews to his daughter, a journalist and broadcaster, and they worked on the book together in Klosters, Switzerland, where she lives for much of the year.

But as the project proceeded Lady Thatcher became increasingly opposed because the book discloses far more personal details about her attitude to family life than her own books. Lady Thatcher has not requested a copy of the transcript and will not attend the launch in London this month. She will be on an overseas speaking tour. Miss

Thatcher, 42, speaking from Klosters, said: "I don't know if she will read it. I did not interview her. She has just written two books. It would have been nice if she could have been at the launch. While launches can take into account many things they cannot take into account your mother's speaking engagements."

She denied that her mother was frosty. "She rang me up on one occasion and told me she was supportive."

Her description of her parents' relationship as a partnership between two selfish people who did not want marriage to change their lives has surprised many friends. Miss Thatcher said: "Their priorities were not to each other or to us."

When she suggested booking a restaurant table for her parents to celebrate her mother's 70th birthday, Lady Thatcher responded: "Good heavens. What on earth would we find to talk about?"

Miss Thatcher disclosed that her father suffered a breakdown. "The only time

the stress became intolerable was just before he decided whether to sell the business [Castrol]. It was in the 1960s. It was caused by overwork. It was all camouflaged; Mum was already in Parliament. It was a ghastly year."

The book describes Lady Thatcher as a distant and terrifying mother who was never warm or affectionate in public. Miss Thatcher said she grew up feeling an irrelevance. "Mum did everything at a spring. She wanted to be all consumed by the job and, by God, she was. As a child I was frightened of her."

The inferiority complex was made worse by the way her mother treated Mark. "I always felt I came second out of the two. Unloved is not the right word, but I never felt I made the grade."

But Miss Thatcher makes clear her admiration for her mother. "I don't expect ever to meet an individual with a greater power of self-discipline and the ability to implement it minute by minute."

She talked to most of her parents' friends and to her father's first wife but her mother was conspicuous by her absence from the interviewing process.

A friend of Miss Thatcher said: "When it became obvious early last year that subjects were being covered which were not referred to in her own books, her mother became actively opposed. She made her views clear."

Lord McAlpine of West Green, a friend of Lady Thatcher for 20 years, said: "Margaret Thatcher is immensely private. There are whole aspects of her life which she did not publish in her books. I have never heard her talk about these things in private. But I am sure many daughters say the same things about their mother."



Margaret Thatcher with Carol and Mark in 1959

Pit takes its coal struggle to big screen

BY ALEXANDRA WILLIAMS AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A GROUP of South Wales miners who saved their pit from closure by buying it have signed a deal to turn their struggle into a film.

The workforce of Tower Colliery in Hirwaun, Mid Glamorgan, signed a contract with the independent film production company First City Features four weeks ago. David Kelly, the producer, has raised finance for the script and is now trying to attract backers. The author Ian Pater has already expressed interest.

The 251-strong Tower workforce, which made £4.1 million gross profits from its first year, insisted it had a success story to tell. "This is an exclusive deal. They are early stages but we are going ahead," Martin Bruce Clayton, from First City Features, said. "We are confident we can make it attractive to financiers."

Phil White, 42, former chairman of the colliery's NUM lodge and now company secretary, said: "David Kelly is positive it's a winner, maybe in America as well because they like the little man against the system."

The colliery will take a percentage of any profits and also plans to set up an educational fund for the area.

Lottery is ticket to chart success

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

RECORD companies are fighting to get their biggest pop and classical acts on BBC's *National Lottery Live*, after proving that the prize draw also brings instant fortune for their stars.

The 15-minute programme, which attracts a broad range of viewers on Saturday nights, has become one of the most powerful showcases for singles and albums, according to Richard Ogden, senior vice-president with Sony Music Europe. He said: "Our artists benefit greatly from being on it. Michael Bolton was on the show with a single from his *Greatest Hits* album. It moved the album up the charts by about 20 places and into the top 20."

Record companies are now timing the release of singles to coincide with appearances on

the show, according to the music industry magazine *Music Monitor*. WEA Records scheduled Cecilia, by the former Madness singer Suggs, for release today. He is due to appear next weekend.

Although the show's average audience is around 13 million, it peaks at 17-18 million at the time of the draw, just after the live music acts appear. Mark Wells, its producer since October, began the policy of booking big-name acts. He said: "The record companies are now falling over each other to get their acts on the show."

The singer Cher released a single *One by One* on January 8, two days after her appearance in a double rollover week. The record went straight into the singles chart at No 7. The album from which it was drawn, *It's A Man's World*, also saw an increase in sales and re-entered the top 40. Meat Loaf's single *Not a Dry Eye* in the *House* jumped from No 23 to No 7 in the week after his live appearance on January 20.

The effect is not limited to rock and pop artists. The soprano Lesley Garrett, who appeared on January 27, saw an immediate rise in sales for her album, *Soprano in Red*. The tenor José Carreras is booked to appear on the programme on April 20.



Cher: song hit charts after rollover draw

Winning numbers, page 20

Storm hits shipping forecast

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SOME interruption is forecast for the well-loved litany of weather reports from coastal stations broadcast four times a day on Radio 4. Mariners in the Dover and Bridlington areas are to be deprived of their data because of a coastguard dispute.

Since 1949 the reports have been made from Three and Butt of Lewis to Ronaldsway and Main Head, giving concise summaries of latest readings of wind direction and speed, visibility, pressure, and general weather conditions.

Now a dispute between coastguards and the Coast-

guard Agency over the payments officers have been receiving for relaying information to the Meteorological Office is leaving the BBC without reports for the two areas.

A decision by 150 coastguards at 15 stations around Britain to stop supplying information from midnight last night is also depriving the Meteorological Office of thousands of readings. The inshore waters report on Radio 3 will also be affected.

The coastguards had been paid between £200 and £800 a year for their reports and claim they did the work in

their own time without interfering with their official duties. But they have been told by the Coastguard Agency that they must provide the information as part of their job, without extra payment. The agency intends to collect the money itself to offset the amounts it pays the Meteorological Office for inshore weather reports.

Linda Scott, of the agency, said: "It is obviously anomalous that our staff should be being paid by another government agency. They are our employees."

Forecast, page 20



Lauren Edwards, 12, from Essex, enjoys a visit from Dylan the Labrador

Pets ease the pain for sick children

By RUSSELL JENKINS

AN EXPERIMENT in the use of pets to ease the suffering of chronically sick children is paying remarkable dividends. Animal therapy at The Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London, which was launched as a trial five years ago, is being incorporated into the whole treatment.

Sick youngsters, many terminally ill or clinically depressed from the trauma of chemotherapy, find comfort in playing with a pet.

The experiment is run by a charity, the Children in Hospital and Animal Therapy Association, under the hospital's consultant psychiatrists.

One young girl injured in Bosnia, who survived for 20 months in the intensive care

unit, could breathe only with the aid of a respirator. The animal therapist introduced her to small mammals.

Sandra Stone, a former nurse and the association's president, said: "In particular she loved the rabbits. Towards the end, when life for her was becoming hard, she became selective of people but the rabbits continued to give her comfort and her favourite was with her up to two days before she died."

A young boy who had undergone extensive surgery was too frightened to move until he took the lead of a dog. A teenage girl suffering from an eating disorder believes it was only the comfort of her friendship with animals that allowed her to regain control of her life.

Doctors depress mental patients

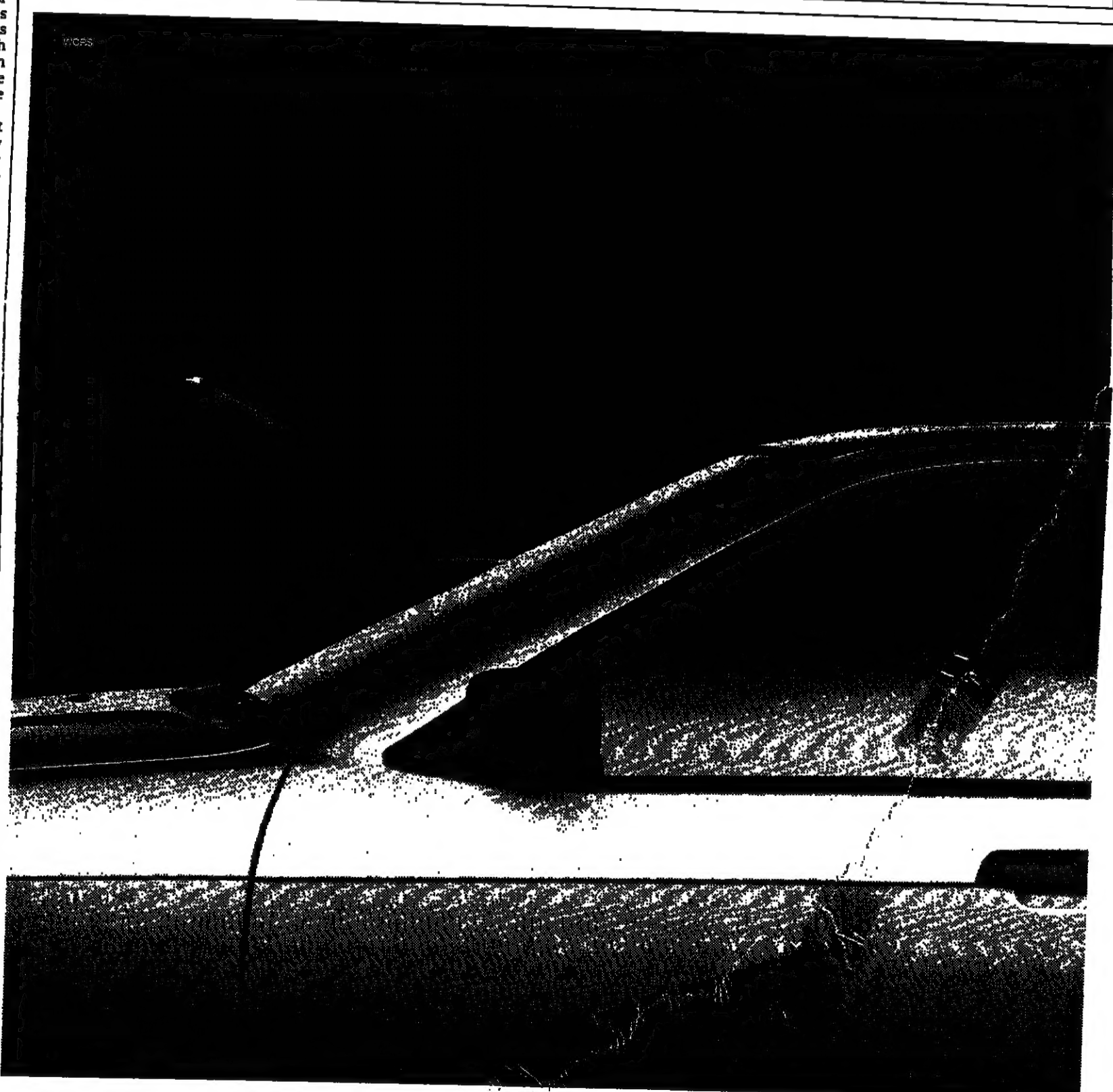
By DOMINIC KENNEDY

MENTALLY ill patients are happier the less they have to do with psychiatrists, social workers and day centres, a survey published today has shown.

Mentally ill people who stay away from day centres are classed by professionals as "hard to engage" and it was assumed they were isolated and lonely. Instead, the study shows that these

people had as many contacts in the community as other mental patients.

The majority of the 76 mentally ill people interviewed by Diana Rose, a social researcher at the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health, and her researchers said the public was afraid and unsympathetic towards them. None said the police were positive towards their problems, whereas two-thirds said the Church was.



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Each year, the European Commission and the Council issue thousands of pages of "regulations and directives", which we in Britain would call laws.

According to the Treaty,¹ European law (ie "regulations and directives") "shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States".²

The European Court of Justice stated: "Every national court must apply Community law in its entirety and must accordingly set aside any provision of national law which may conflict with it, whether prior or subsequent to the Community rule".³

It is now generally accepted by British judges that "the Treaty is the supreme law of this country taking precedence over Acts of Parliament".⁴ The courts of the United Kingdom have therefore accepted that their duty is to ensure the full and effective rule of Community law, even if it contradicts the unequivocal provisions of Acts of Parliament. Thus, Parliament has surrendered its sovereignty and the Treaty of Rome, as amended by the Single European Act and Maastricht, in effect, has become a written and supreme constitution.

The former Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning, stated, "No longer is European Law an incoming tide flowing up the estuaries of England. It is now like a tidal wave bringing down our sea walls and flowing inland over our fields and houses to the dismay of all".⁵

So it is that Parliament has given up its right to pass laws on an ever increasing range of issues.⁶ That is why the referendum is necessary and one of the reasons why a referendum restricted to the issue of a single currency is insufficient.

If the people of Britain want the nation's laws to be enacted in Brussels, then they should be able to say so. The consequence would be that the electoral promises of the political parties would need to be limited to those issues over which they would retain some authority.

If, on the other hand, the British people want to bring power back home, they should also be allowed to say so. Should a majority agree, and the government acts accordingly, then laws enacted in Westminster could once again be supreme and general elections would no longer be the masquerade with which we are now faced.

If you wish to become a supporter of The Referendum Party please write to:

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1. The Treaty of Rome as amended by the Single European Act and the Treaty of Maastricht. 2. The Treaty of Rome, Article 189(2). 3. Case 106/77 Amministrazione delle Finanze dello Stato v. Simmenthal (1978) ECR 629 at 643, 644. 4. Hoffman J. in Stoke-on-Trent City Council v. B&Q plc (1990) 3 CMLR 31 at 34. 5. Introduction to Gavin Smith, The ECJ: Judges or Policy Makers? 6. The original Treaty of Rome principally covered matters relating to the establishment of a common market. Maastricht radically expanded the areas of Europe's legal competence and went well beyond purely economic matters. The purpose, unequivocally, had become the creation of a European super-state.

Health
study by
Benbecul

All change
then so
becomes an

السلامة

Health director to study big rise in Benbecula cancer

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE Government offered expert help yesterday to analyse a spate of cancer cases on Benbecula in the Western Isles to see if they could be linked to fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion ten years ago.

Evidence from two doctors on the island shows that the incidence of some forms of cancer increased three-fold in a year. Dr Francis Tierney and Dr Andrew Senior, who practise at Grimsburgh, noticed the increase early last year. Nineteen new cancers had been reported since 1994 when only six would have been expected. There was a particular increase in cancers of the digestive tract, mainly among crofters.

Dr Tierney said: "There is a sharp increase in the incidence of cancer compared with other parts of the country that must be due to environmental factors. We need the help of scientists to find out why we have this increase and whether it is a true increase compared to other parts of the country that were not so exposed to fallout from Chernobyl."

The radioactive cloud emitted from Chernobyl passed over the Western Isles in May 1986, at a time of heavy rainfall.

Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, asked the Scottish Office to order an inquiry into the findings. He said: "It is important to establish whether this cluster is significant or merely a blip — and if so, why. These



figures will cause immense concern in the local community. It is necessary for the islands' health board and the local health council to get every help to get to the bottom of the situation. Personally, I find these figures deeply disturbing."

Dr Robert Kendell, the Chief Medical Officer of Scotland, said it was "exceedingly unlikely" that Chernobyl was responsible. He said the radioactive plume spread over millions of square miles and could never have selectively contaminated so small an area so far away. Fallout did not cause cancers of the digestive tract in isolation; it mainly caused thyroid cancers and leukaemias.

Cancers related to Chernobyl would be spread over many years, as happened with thyroid cancers in Ukraine, he added. "The first issue to be established is whether there is indeed any cancer cluster, and this requires detailed statistical analysis. This is a matter in the first instance for the Western Isles Health Board and its director of public health. If the board wishes expert assistance on assessing

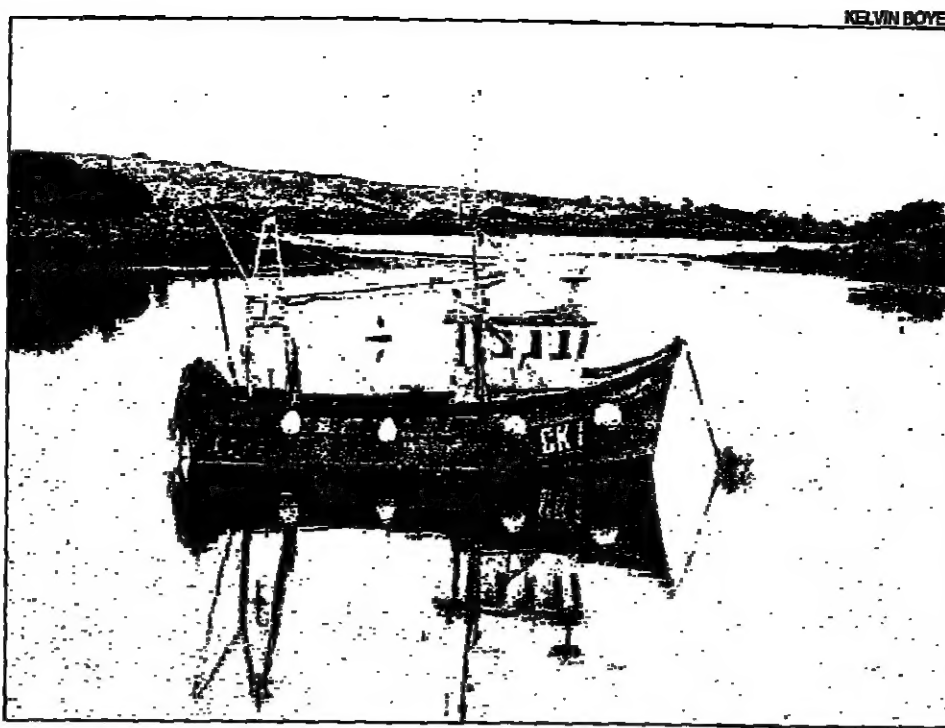
whether there is indeed anything unusual to be explained, that can easily be provided."

Western Isles Health Board officials are to check the records of every GP and medical establishment on Benbecula to confirm the numbers and to see if any pattern can be established.

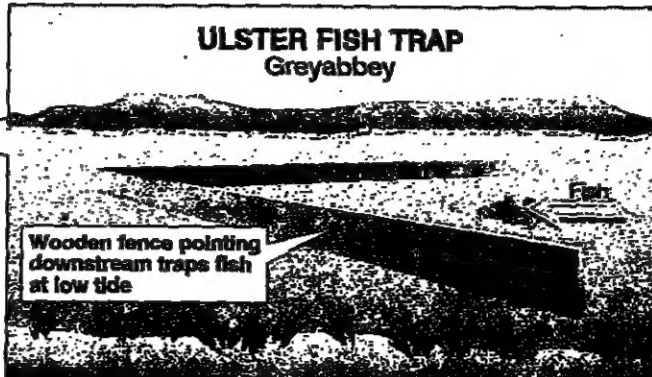
Other causes have been suggested, including fallout from rockets fired by an Army range at Benbecula into the Atlantic, and the effect of a powerful air defence radar on a hill on the island. An Army spokeswoman said: "The rockets which have been used at Benbecula are certainly not uranium tipped or anything like that."

Another theory is that the rise is due solely to improved cancer detection methods.

The World Health Organisation said areas such as Gomel in the former Soviet republic of Belorussia had suffered a massive increase in cancers in the years after the Chernobyl disaster.



Strangford Lough, where the locals may have trapped fish for sale 1,000 years ago



How tides have trapped fish for 1,000 years

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have uncovered the remains of giant wooden fish traps dating back 1,000 years on the mudflats of Strangford Lough in Co Down.

During a survey of the tidal lough last summer, archaeologists also uncovered evidence of the first settlers in Ireland in the Mesolithic era 8,000 years ago. Flint tools from the period were found among cockle beds and the remains of oyster shells.

Most attention has focused on the remains of V-shaped fish traps discovered on the mudflats of Greyabbey Bay. They show that the lough, an area of special scientific interest, was highly developed in the early Christian period.

The traps, which were set across small tidal channels, consisted of two "arms" 300 metres long. The arms, which were up to two metres high, were made of woven wattle supported by oak posts which were driven into the mudflats. The archaeologists found remains of the wooden stakes.

Brian Williams, a senior

archaeologist at the Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service, said: "At high tide, the fish traps flooded with seawater. As the tide ebbed, any fish caught inside would be trapped in a basket, known as a putt, at the end of the trap. Someone would then pick up the fish. The traps extended over a wide area, which suggests there may have been commercial rather than simply domestic exploitation of the fish."

Mr Williams has used radiocarbon samples to date the remains of three wooden fish traps to 1037, 1053, and 1275. He believes that the fish traps were used by the inhabitants of the lough which dated back to the early Christian period.

The remains of fish traps can still be seen on the lough at low tide because stone traps were placed over the wooden versions in the 12th and 13th centuries. Mr Williams believes that the stone traps were probably built by the Cistercian community at the nearby Grey Abbey.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

All change when the wise uncle becomes an aunt

WHEN my overseas patients are in London their time is at a premium, so as many as possible of their special tests are done before they have a consultant's opinion. One man had been struggling with swollen, painful knees totally disorganised by arthritis. Armed with X-rays, MRI scan and pathology lab reports, he went to see Mr William Muirhead-Aliwood, who cast them to one side, held up his hands and said: "These are all I need to assess your knees."

Mr Muirhead-Aliwood, the orthopaedic surgeon who has announced he is to have a sex-change operation, has been a doctor's doctor for years, one of the specialists doctors consult about their own and their family's troubles. His skills are greatly admired and his self-confident, decisive manner has always been acceptable to colleagues too knowledgeable to need a softly, softly approach.

Nobody was surprised when Mr Roger Vickers asked Mr Muirhead-Aliwood to assist when the Queen Mother had a hip replacement. They make a powerful team.

Mr Muirhead-Aliwood has voluntarily made a public statement about his intentions. The tragedy will be if his decision excites such prejudices, or engenders anxieties, which interfere with his future as a surgeon.

Doctors need to be relaxed to achieve a rapport. We learn to leave our financial, domestic and emotional problems behind when we are in the surgery or hospital but, if they are too great, they do intrude. This was demonstrated to me when I worked in a busy genito-urinary medical clinic. I prided myself that very few of the hundreds of women from whom I took cervical smears complained. Very occasionally I would have one or two "ooos" and "ouches" on the same day. I realised that

these off-days coincided with some outside worry, and that, however much I thought I had put it out of my mind, my subconscious anxiety transmitted itself to the patient, who became tense.

The late Maurice Macmillan, when Shadow Minister of Health, spent weeks studying doctors as they worked and came to the conclusion that the best results in dealing with patients were achieved by those who related as if they were members of their own family. To some they behaved like sons, to others like fathers, uncles or brothers.

If Mr Macmillan was right, the doctor who changes his gender identity will have to relearn his interpersonal skills and redefine his consulting room relationships. Likewise, a patient who has regarded their doctor as a friendly but knowledgeable brother, or a wise uncle versed in medicine, will have to develop a totally new relationship.

Patients like continuity, which they equate with dependability. A sex-change would be more difficult for a GP who has a permanent relationship with patients than for a specialist who is forever seeing new cases.

Male transsexuals feel they have the mind of a woman imprisoned in a male body. Initially they are usually content to adopt feminine clothes, jewellery and manners to pass the day when away from work and family friends. Later, many tire of the stress and hypocrisy this causes and seek radical surgery.

Only people who have a stable, background socially and professionally, and are worried about their gender identity when cheerful as well as when stressed and unhappy, are suitable candidates.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



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You insisted on a boot. You're getting the Polo Saloon.

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The Polo Harlequin.



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Dismissed MI6 man 'denied justice'

AN MI6 officer who was sacked last year is claiming unfair dismissal (Michael Evans writes). But he has been prevented from taking his case to an industrial tribunal because MI6 staff are barred from taking such action when they join the service.

The *Sunday Times*, which reported the sacking yesterday, said the MI6 officer was allegedly sacked for lack of commitment to the service. He was allowed to take his case before an internal tribunal headed by Lord Justice Brown but his claim was dismissed. He told *The Sunday Times* that he had been denied justice. "I had no legal representation or access to papers said to give reasons for my dismissal."

Intelligence sources said: "It's impossible for a sacked MI6 officer to go to an industrial tribunal because it would mean disclosing classified information."

MI5 spies join Whitehall performance pay scheme

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE 2,000 staff at MI5 have been put on performance-related pay to guarantee value-for-money intelligence-gathering. The counter-espionage and counter-terrorist officers of the Security Service have joined the same management culture as the rest of Whitehall. The Armed Forces are to adopt the system soon.

Under the scheme, individual MI5 staff are expected to

set objectives for the year to their line managers. If they achieve their targets, they are given certain "box markings" that will decide their level of pay. Security sources said even those officers engaged in long-term penetration of terrorist organisations were expected to set themselves annual objectives to benefit from the scheme.

The performance pay disclosure is made in a booklet published by the Security Service at the end of last week. The intention was to create "a

cascade effect" under which individual objectives achieved by MI5 staff helped to fulfil the overall aims for the whole organisation.

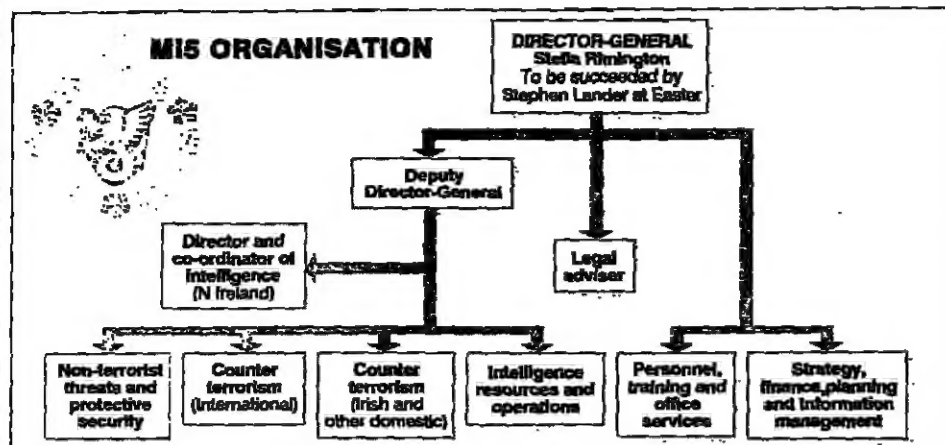
The booklet disclosed that after a review by Sir Michael Quinlan, a former permanent under-secretary at the Ministry of Defence, into MI5's structure and targeting policy, a committee had been formed which sets annual priorities and objectives for the Security Service. MI5's priorities in terms of threats to national security are now examined

and validated each year by a sub-committee of the Cabinet Official Committee on Security and approved by ministers. The organisation of MI5 is also detailed in the new booklet, which highlights the importance of the department responsible for strategy and planning.

According to the booklet, MI5 has stepped up efforts to prevent British companies, universities and scientific institutions from helping rogue states to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Despite export restrictions controlling the sale of sensitive equipment to other countries, MI5 has said that there are many companies in Britain which could potentially, although largely unwittingly, give assistance to nuclear, mechanical and biological weapons programmes.

"A number of countries are known actively to be seeking western technology, expertise and materials to further their own programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction," MI5 said. These countries had developed "highly sophisticated worldwide procurement networks".



Régis de Bouvier de Cachat, a French artist, joins protesters in Lyme Regis yesterday against plans for a lifeboat station that would block views of The Cobb, seen in Karel Reisz's film of John Fowles's *The French Lieutenant's Woman*

Heseltine leads drive for sale of West Coast line

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HESELTINE and Brian Mawhinney are putting intense pressure on Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to sell the troubled West Coast main line rail franchise before the election.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Tory party chairman see the London to Glasgow InterCity franchise as a crucial "scalp" for the privatisation policy. The route has fallen to the back of the queue because the 400-mile track is in urgent need of modernisation, making the route far harder to sell. Railtrack is planning an £800 million programme of improvements over nine years.

However, Mr Heseltine and Dr Mawhinney, a former Transport Secretary, believe the sale of the franchise would act as a vital counter to Labour claims that privatisation acts as a deterrent to investment.

"If we can get West Coast away, it proves that the system can deal with selling a franchise at the same time as a major upgrading of the route that it runs on," a senior government source said.

The line, which serves 20 million people, runs through or past a swathe of Tory-held marginal seats in the Midlands and the North West.

Mr Heseltine has taken a keen interest in privatisation, frequently interfering in the Department of Transport's presentation of the policy,

which has remained resolutely unpopular with the public throughout the sale. Ministers now believe the worst is over and that with the sale gathering pace and Labour's attacks blunted by its own policy problems, it will turn into a vote winner.

Mr Heseltine wants all 25 franchises to be sold before the election, but is particularly concerned about the two biggest franchises not yet on the market, West Coast and ScotRail, which is complicated by a dispute with the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive. The two are now expected to be put on the market in the summer or autumn, with handover to the private sector by early next year, if the sales run smoothly.

So far, only two franchises, South West and Great Western, have actually changed hands. A further five InterCity East Coast, Network SouthCentral, Gatwick Express, Midland Main Line, and LTS Rail, which was pulled from the brink of sale in February — are expected to be under new ownership by the end of April.

The West Coast main line track has not been upgraded for 30 years. Railtrack was recently ordered by the Health and Safety Executive to carry out emergency improvements to the track at Euston, its London terminus, after a succession of derailments.

Military police chief gains right to bonus

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Constable of the country's eighth biggest police force will receive bonus pay if he runs his force efficiently under government reforms starting today.

The Ministry of Defence Police is the first force to become an agency under the Government's "Next Steps" initiative. Wally Boreham, a former Scotland Yard officer who now heads the ministry force, will receive extra pay-

ments, yet to be negotiated, on top of a salary of more than £60,000 if the force meets cost and efficiency targets.

Known unofficially as the "Mod Plod", the force has 4,500 officers responsible for protecting military installations and the ministry's civilian plants. Three quarters of the force is armed at any one time.

Senior officers in the force believe agency status will mean that they can make money from hiring out training facilities.

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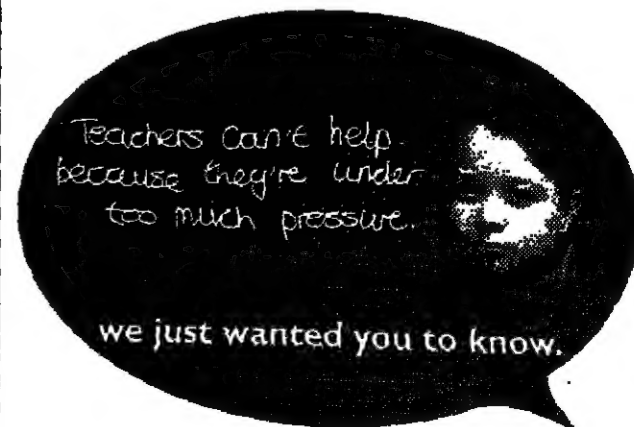
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Salmon... linked to global warming



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Handwritten text in Arabic script: "بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم"

University review challenges dominance of colleges in decision making

Management consultants take aim at Oxford elite

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MANAGEMENT consultants are proposing to change the balance of power within Oxford University to give academic departments a stronger role and to introduce a central administration more in line with other universities.

The traditional dominance of the colleges and the complex system of government make Oxford slow to react to opportunities, particularly in research, the report by Coopers and Lybrand says.

The report recommends that Congregation, the dons' parliament, should lose its place as the supreme body in the university, delegating its powers to a streamlined general council to include college heads, elected dons and up to three outsiders.

The Vice-Chancellor, Oxford's senior academic, would serve for longer and acquire three deputies to share the administrative load. They would chair three new boards, responsible for planning, stan-

dards and liaison with the colleges. Outsiders would be brought in to sit on influential committees and advise on appointments.

The number of faculties would be reduced, possibly by half, and the new subject units would have more power. Where disagreements arose over teaching, the "burden of proof" would lie with the colleges.

The report says that the university should delegate more decision-making and introduce greater accountability. Among the other main recommendations are:

□ Some colleges to specialise, rather than each trying to teach all subjects;

□ Better planning, including a new central unit to prevent wasteful internal competition for research grants;

□ Oxford to take a "more visible lead" in developing ideas about higher education.

Although apparently bureaucratic, the changes advo-

cated by the consultants would have an impact comparable to that brought about by the Franks Committee, which carried out Oxford's last fundamental review 30 years ago.

The report has already been considered by the Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Dr Peter North, the Vice-Chancellor, which is due to report before the end of the year. Members of the commission decided to reserve judgment on its recommendations until a wider debate in the university next term.

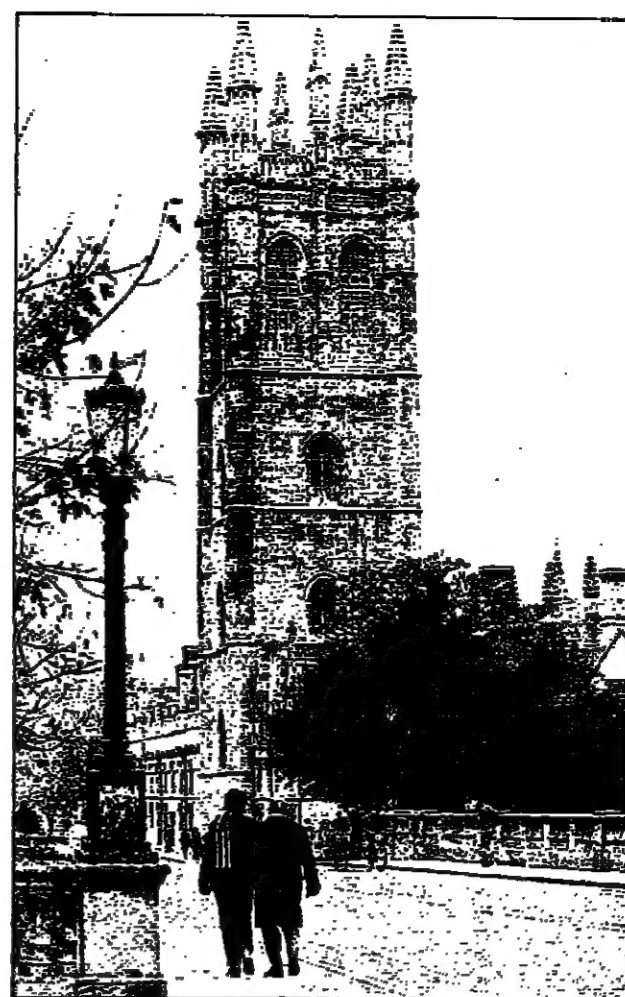
The commission has asked for responses before the end of next month. It has already issued its own initial conclusions, dismissing some of the more radical proposals to preserve Oxford's collegiate structure and tutorial teaching.

First reactions to the report cast doubt on the likelihood of change on the scale demanded by the consultants. Anthony Smith, the President of Mag-

dalen College, said the proposals could lead to reform of "historic proportions" but there could be unintended damage to undergraduate teaching if too much emphasis was placed on research.

Robert Stevens, the Master of Pembroke College, said: "Many of the ideas are very sensible, but my worry is that we could end up with the worst of both worlds, destroying the teaching structure which makes the university what it is, without getting into the first division for research."

Sir Walter Bodmer, the world-renowned scientist who takes the helm at Hertford College in September, said the report was disappointing because the Vice-Chancellor still would not have sufficient authority. "I am amazed that they say they want more democracy. I would have thought that one of Oxford's problems was that it is absolutely riddled with democracy and cannot take decisions."



Magdalen College, Oxford, one of those whose dominance is accused of stifling opportunity

Alarm firm settles dispute over theft

BY PETER FOSTER

A MAN who lost antiques worth £200,000 in a burglary has reached an out-of-court settlement with the company that sold him his burglar alarm.

Michael Clarke-Jervoise filed a High Court writ against Chubb Alarms after his insurance company refused to pay out because the advanced infra-red intruder alarm system installed and maintained by Chubb had failed to go off.

The burglar's haul included George III silver spoons depicting the family's crest, a Regency regulator clock worth £14,000 and a landscape painting by the 17th-century Dutch artist Albert Cuyp valued at £150,000.

The valuables were being kept at Mr Clarke-Jervoise's former home, a six-bedroom Tudor house near Basingstoke. The writ catalogued six occasions between December 1992 and December 1993 when Chubb engineers visited the house and assured Mr Clarke-Jervoise that the alarm was working.

But when in February 1994 he visited his son who was working in Bolivia, leaving his

wife and cleaning lady to watch the house and operate the alarm, burglars were able to break in without setting off the infra-red detectors.

Richard Harrison, solicitor to Mr Clarke-Jervoise, said Chubb had required a confidentiality clause as a condition of settling out of court. Mr Clarke-Jervoise, 66, would say only that he was "content" with the outcome and was still ruling the loss of the antiques.

The Cuyp landscape is a classic. It was bought by one of my ancestors in the middle of the 18th century and had been in the family ever since."

The Association of British Insurers advised policy holders whose insurance depended on alarms being fully operational to keep accurate service records and use only engineers accredited by the National Approval for Security Systems organisation, of which Chubb is a member.

Anyone who is unsure whether their alarm is working should immediately contact their insurance company and follow any recommendations for security measures while waiting for the alarm to be repaired.

Salmon fall linked to global warming

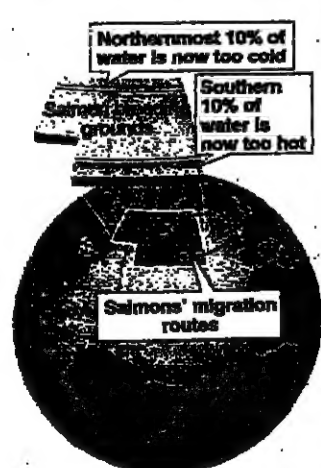
BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A DECLINE in numbers of spring salmon in British rivers has been linked to global warming. Researchers believe the area of the northwest Atlantic able to support the fish during the winter has fallen by a fifth.

Dave Reddin, a scientist at the Canadian Government's North West Atlantic Fisheries Centre in St John's, Nova Scotia, said: "Sea temperatures in the northern part of the habitat have been getting colder but in the south they have been getting warmer. So the area the salmon can inhabit is collapsing on itself."

The findings mirror computer models of global warming caused by pollution rises. "Part of the predictions is that the northern part of the northwest Atlantic will get colder because of Arctic ice melting, bringing colder waters in the Labrador current."

Some spring salmon runs have declined markedly in recent years, forcing the authorities and anglers to adopt restrictions. Captain Jeremy Read of the Atlantic Salmon Trust said it was vital that fishing of spring salmon in the sea and rivers was reduced.



Smuggler fails to win recompense

A convicted drug smuggler who served seven years has unanimously lost his case in the European Court of Human Rights to make the Government pay him more than £300,000 compensation. Peter Welch, a former rock guitarist, alleged that he lost money because of a court order, applied retrospectively, banning him from dealing in properties in Portugal, Swansea and Chislehurst, southeast London.

Last flight

The RAF's basic training aircraft, the Chipmunk, was grounded yesterday after nearly 50 years of service. It took over from the Tiger biplane in 1949 and although replaced in the late 1950s continued to be used by university squadrons and air cadets.

Anti-flak patrol

Traffic wardens in Cardiff are to be issued with bullet-proof jackets to combat an increase in assaults. But one warden said: "Drivers don't shoot or stab us — they try to run us over. I can't see a flak-jacket giving us much protection against that."

D-day for Welsh

New drivers in Wales can display only D-plates (dysgwyr is Welsh for learner) from today, instead of having L-plates as well. Rod Richards, a Welsh Office Minister, said: "It is part of enabling Welsh to be used more in everyday life."

Bus chase

A boy aged 16 was charged with aggravated vehicle-taking after police chased a British Airways bus 40 miles along the M4 between Thames Valley and Wiltshire. Five teenagers were charged with being passengers knowing the vehicle was taken.

Martini's ugly advert leaves bitter aftertaste

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE Advertising Standards Authority has censured Martini for a television advertisement telling viewers to have cosmetic surgery so they "look good enough" to drink it.

After receiving many complaints, it ruled that the advertisement was hurtful to disabled people and could be shown only after 9pm. The advertisement shows a man who apparently feels too ugly to drink Martini and seeks cosmetic surgery. Emerging self-confidently from the hospital afterwards, he happily

sips the drink in the company of a woman. Another advertisement considered "offensive" by the authority portrayed a quiz show in which the winners have cosmetic surgery.

The Independent Television Commission, which collects such complaints, "was particularly concerned about the possible impact on facially disfigured children who would not necessarily interpret the material in the relatively sophisticated way intended", the authority said. Martini said the advertisements were intended to satirise vanity.

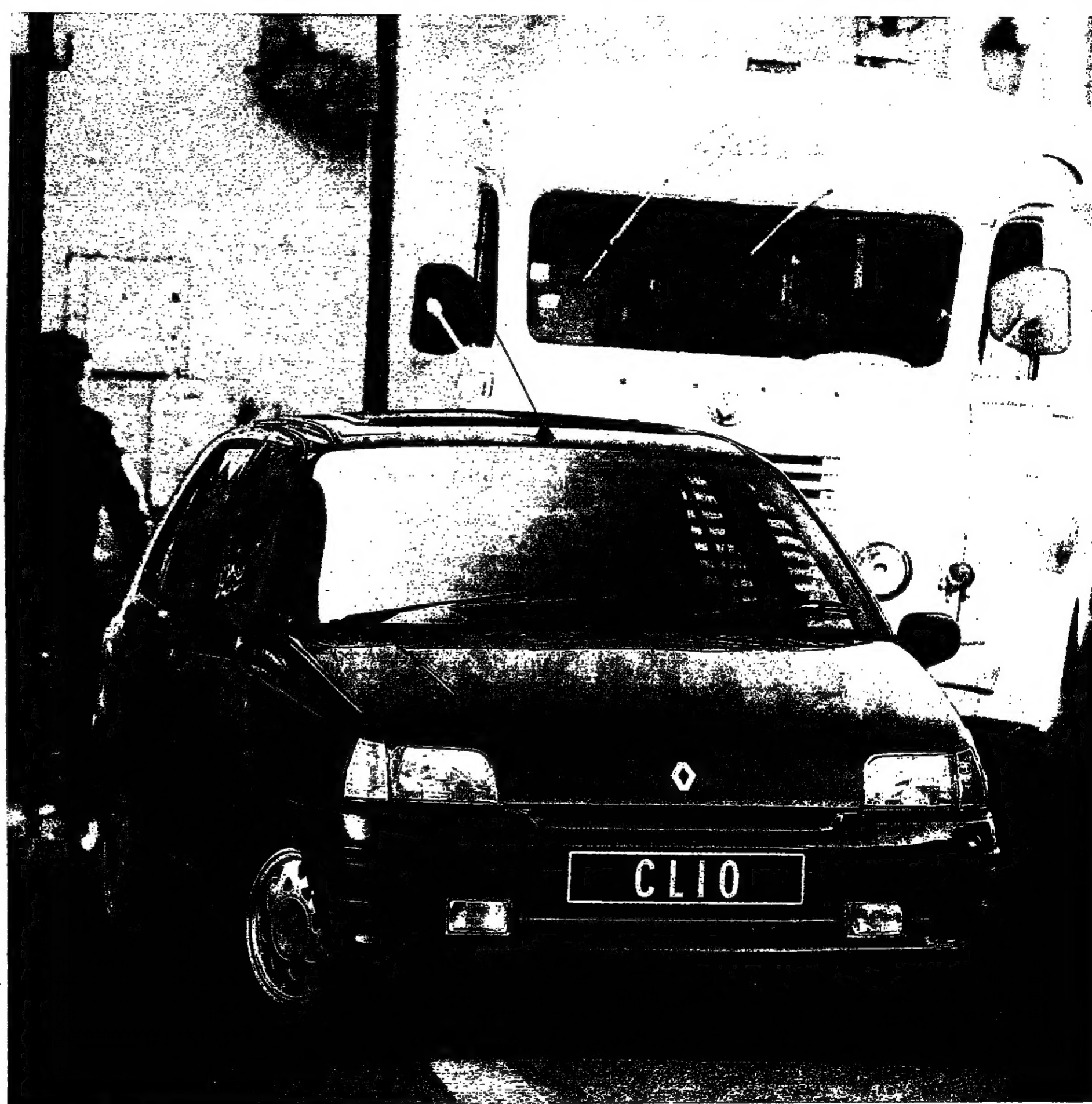
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Hong Kong scrum for British passports amid twilight of colonial rituals

FROM TOM WALKER
IN HONG KONG

AS HONG KONG'S expatriate community wallowed in its annual beery binge of rugby "sevens" at the weekend, the colony's other main stadium found itself packed to the rafters too — with desperate last-minute applicants for British National Overseas passports.

Violence on the rugby pitch in the Hong Kong stadium was matched by chaotic scenes outside Wan Chai stadium, where tempers became

frayed in a queue of 20,000 mainly Chinese hopefuls which snaked around the business district's pedestrian flyovers to Immigration Tower. One man was admitted to hospital having been hit over the head with a mobile phone, only to find himself arrested afterwards for causing a fracas.

Chris Patten, the Governor, wisely stayed in the rugby stadium, dancing with the distinctly non-Chinese mass to the tunes of Hong Kong Bank and Cathay Pacific advertisements, and was seen on

closed-circuit television cheering the Hong Kong team run in a consolation try against France.

Meanwhile, such was the scale of the panic at Wan Chai that the Immigration Department worked through the night on Saturday: extra helpers came in to process nearly 60,000 weekend applications at a rate of 2,000 an hour and yesterday evening there were 700 officials working on all eight floors of Immigration Tower. All those joining the mile-long queue before midnight were guaranteed to have

their applications processed. Future hopefuls will have to apply under Chinese rule.

The queue ran the gamut of end-of-empire society, from exasperated civil servants and businessmen barking down mobile telephones to sugarcane-chewing peasants; even a few sweating expatriates were to be found, worried about their status from next year. They were united in one concern only — that Peking could wreak havoc with their liberty to travel in and out of the Special Administrative Region

of China. "I had no idea this might apply to gweilos [whites]," complained Stephen James, a designer from Bristol who has been here for 20 years. "But the more people I spoke to, the more people I discovered going through the process. I don't want to have to come back here under the Chinese and be queuing for a permit every six months."

Successful applicants will have unimpeded passage to and from Chinese-ruled Hong Kong, and visa-free access to about 80 coun-

tries after the sovereignty change. An Australian in the queue, 28-year-old Jason Wordie from Queensland, said he was prepared to relinquish his Australian passport. "It's not that I want to be British," he said. "But I want to be a citizen of Hong Kong."

About 175,000 applications have been received — more than double the number expected — although in theory up to two million Chinese, who have lived in the territory for five years, could have applied. There was no evidence that the

relatively small proportion of passport-seekers would lead to a flood of Hong Kong visitors to Britain.

"There are no jobs, it's expensive — I don't like the place," said Larry, a businessman originally from Shantung in northern China. **Anti-Peking protest:** More than 800 demonstrators took part in a march through Hong Kong yesterday in protest at Peking's heavy-handed efforts to reverse democratic reforms. They chanted: "Silence is not golden, it's fatal." (Reuters)

Chinese police raid American banquet in aid of orphans

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINESE security police raided a banquet and stopped best-selling American writer Amy Tan, author of the novel *Joy Luck Club*, from making a speech to raise funds for Chinese orphans, the event's organisers said last night. The function was attended by the new American Ambassador to Peking.

The envoy, Jim Sasser, due to return to Washington shortly to lobby his former congressional colleagues to renew China's most favoured nation (MFN) status, was "flabbergasted" by the heavy-handed police tactics, said an American businessman sitting at the same table.

Most of the top United States and other foreign companies in Peking had sponsored tables at the banquet, at which Ms Tan, 44, a Chinese-American, was to make her speech, which had been publicised in advance. "Ambassador Sasser just could not understand how the Chinese authorities could act with such insensitivity," said the businessman, who asked not to be named. "He is getting ready to go to the US to lobby on Peking's behalf on MFN — you can imagine how he must feel now."

Up to 40 Chinese security men were involved in the raid on the Holiday Inn Lido just before the banquet began. They wanted to stop the event altogether, but relented and put up partitions to divide the ballroom into sections. They

also ripped banners from the walls that read "Love Children" and "Cherish Orphans". Others at the event said that San Francisco-born Amy Tan, who also works with disabled children in America, was then banned from delivering her speech. However, she went from table to table to thank participants for their contributions.

Peking, which in recent weeks had tried to intimidate

Taiwan plans military drills

Taipei: Taiwan will hold three military drills next week, including a five-fire exercise near China. Chiang Chung-lin, the Taiwanese Defence Minister, said they would take place from Sunday until the following Wednesday in the Matsien Island group. (AFP)

Taiwanese voters by staging live military exercises in the Taiwan Strait, is still smarting from allegations made this year that unwanted orphans had been allowed to die from starvation at a state-run Shanghai orphanage and at other children's homes.

James McGregor, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce here, which was participating in the event, said: "This was designed pure-

ly to raise money to help Chinese orphans. Politics did not come into it at all — it is very disappointing."

The chamber is also sending a delegation to Washington in two weeks' time to lobby for a renewal of China's favoured trading status. "There are so many good people in China too," noted a member of the delegation.

"There are many positive things going on in China, but they are cancelled out by this folly. At a time like this the last thing Peking needs is bad publicity. What sense does it make to close an effort to aid orphans? China's image is already negative because of the Taiwan exercises."

During the raid, which took place an hour before the banquet was due to start, the plainclothes security men claimed that the organisers did not have permission to stage the \$472 (£310) a head event. But sources close to the organisers said that Peking hotels held such charitable events almost nightly without any police interference.

"It was sheer stupidity to do this with the new American Ambassador present," said one participant. "The Chinese really have their feet in their mouths this time."

Organisers said that almost all the top American companies in Peking, from McDonnell-Douglas to Johnson & Johnson and Chevron, were represented among the 450 participants.



Demonstrators in Tokyo raise their fists yesterday in protest over the forced renewal of the leases for American military bases on Okinawa. Tens of thousands of people took part, putting more pressure on the

Government in the run-up to President Clinton's visit in two weeks. The Communist organisers said about

90,000 people gathered in the capital in the biggest anti-American rally on the mainland since the rape of a 12-

year-old girl by three US servicemen last September. About 1,500 police in Okinawa were guarding an American telecommunications base, the lease for part of which expired at midnight. (AFP)

Caretaker appointed to save Dhaka democracy

FROM AHMED FAZL
IN DHAKA

THE Bangladesh parliament was prematurely dissolved at the weekend after Begum Khalida Zia, the Prime Minister, resigned and an Oxford-educated retired judge took charge to salvage the country's crumbling democracy. The

transfer of power occurred as tens of thousands of opposition activists threatened to storm President Ahmed's house unless Begum Zia and her Council of Ministers, formed less than two weeks ago, stepped down.

The opposition Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed, a bitter foe of Begum

Zia, has been waging a two-year campaign to unseat the Prime Minister. A disputed general election in February, which the opposition boycotted, gave a one-sided victory to Begum Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Last month the "Battle of the Begums" escalated when the opposition launched a non-co-

operation campaign, crippling the economy. The cost of their political confrontation has been huge, and the country is said to face famine conditions.

Diplomats in Dhaka say the appointment of Muhammad Habibur Rahman, 66, who retired as Chief Justice a year ago, as interim leader has blunted the threat of an im-

minent takeover by the armed forces. The military is already on the streets, guarding sensitive installations.

Mr Rahman has been asked to hold multiparty elections within three months. But given a legacy of violent electioneering, there are doubts about the prospects of a second peaceful poll this year.

ANC presses Pretoria to abandon anti-Abacha line

FROM R. W. JOHNSON IN JOHANNESBURG

THE opposition to the Nigerian military regime of General Abacha suffered a setback at the weekend when its first conference in Africa was, in effect, crippled by its South African hosts.

Addressed by Wole Soyinka, the Nigerian Nobel Laureate, the conference was to have been a rallying point for Nigerian pro-democracy forces, leading to the establishment of a symbolically important headquarters on African soil.

The Nigerian opposition has looked to South Africa as its best friend after President Mandela's turnaround at the Commonwealth conference, when the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Nigerian dissidents saw the South African President abandon his conciliatory pose and lead a furious demand for sanctions against the Abacha regime.

Hardly had Mr Mandela returned home, however, than the murmuring campaign began. Since he had made policy on his own, neither the Foreign Ministry, the African National Congress, nor the Communist Party had been able to exercise their customary influence. Each had significant reservations. No African country has followed Mr Mandela's lead, leaving South Africa isolated diplomatically — just when Pretoria had wanted maximum African support for its attempt to win a seat on the United Nations Security Council.

South Africa had, ANC activists alleged, been tricked by "British and American imperialism" into taking the lead against Nigeria, so aligning itself with Western democracies rather than its natural Third World allies.

ANC radicals were discomfited to see the black American leader, Louis Farrakhan, go from South Africa to Lagos where he strongly endorsed the Abacha regime, rejecting Western criticism as white racism. The feeling has been growing within ANC and Communist Party circles that it might be best quietly to ditch Mr Mandela's human rights stand.

The Nigerian opposition's plan to hold a large conference, and even establish its headquarters, here must have

seemed like a large step in the wrong direction. South African embassies quietly refused to grant General Sani Abacha's opponents visas. At the eleventh hour, the ANC's inner cabinet, the National Working Party, invited the organisers to cancel. The conference went ahead, but on a reduced scale and without publicity. Only Nigerians with British, American or Canadian passports were able to get into South Africa, leaving most delegates to meet at a separate conference in Norway.

Communist Party spokesmen here claimed the Abacha regime had stopped dissidents from leaving — a version of reality rebutted by those Nigerians who did attend.

Mr Soyinka and his compatriots are seeking clarification of the South African Government's attitude, hoping to hold it to Mr Mandela's human rights commitment. However, Mr Soyinka, bitterly attacking Mr Farrakhan for "winning and dining with our oppressors", scathingly suggested that those who believed military dictatorship was the appropriate form of government for the world's largest black nation were betraying their "slave mentality".

His speech shows Pretoria's dilemma. It does not wish to be at odds with the rest of Africa, but if the Government ditches Nigeria's democratic opposition, it could find that same rhetoric directed at the Mandela Government.

Nigerian top brass sacked

Lagos: Nigeria's military ruler, General Sani Abacha, sacked his army and air force chiefs in a surprise move that further shakes the unstable nation. According to a terse government statement on Saturday night, Major-General Alwali Kazir and Vice-Marshal Femi John Femi were replaced "effectively immediately" by Major-General Ishaya Bamsayi and Air Commodore Nsikak Eneke. (AP)

Rockets fired into Galilee

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

THE United States, Israel and Syria attempted yesterday to prevent an escalation of violence in Lebanon after pro-Iranian guerrillas fired nearly 30 Katyusha rockets into Galilee.

The Hezbollah attacks forced tens of thousands of Jews into shelters and the evacuation of holiday sites preparing for this week's Pass-

over holiday. The renewed violence came as a severe blow to the Israeli tourist industry, already hit by thousands of cancellations from potential Passover and Easter holiday-makers deterred by the continuing threat of more suicide attacks by Islamic extremists.

The confrontation line settlements have been put on emergency status and all necessary precautions have been taken, said Yossi Goldberg, the chairman of the council in

Metulla, an Israeli holiday town situated only a few hundred yards from the Lebanese border.

As Washington put pressure on Syria — which has 46,000 troops in Lebanon — to use its influence to prevent further attacks, Israel took the unusual step of apologising for Saturday's attack on the village of Yatta, in which two Lebanese installing a water tank were killed and a three-year-old child was injured.

Gunboat blown up by Tigers

Colombo: Tamil Tiger rebels staged a seaborne suicide raid and attacked a military base in eastern Sri Lanka. At least 54 people were killed, officials said yesterday.

The Tigers rammed a boat laden with explosives against a gunboat, escorting a naval convoy taking supplies to the Jaffna peninsula, killing ten sailors. Helicopter gunships went to the rescue, sinking eight rebel boats. The military claimed 35 Tigers were killed. In Batticaloa, in the east, Tigers attacked two military posts, killing three soldiers and six civilians. (AFP)

Queen's official rejects republic

Sydney: Bill Hayden, who retired in February as Australia's Governor-General, has compared the move to a republic to "tarring up" an old vehicle you own, renaming it and buying it back as "somehow improved" (Roger Maynard writes). The Queen's former representative made the comments in his autobiography, published this week.

Sunken ships put Gulf at risk

Kuwait City: An environmental catastrophe could hit the coastlines of the Gulf states if more than 200 vessels, including oil tankers and gunships that were sunk during ten years of conflict, remain unsalvaged, Mahmoud Abdul Raheem, a marine expert, claimed. (AFP)

Plane crashes on motorway

Washington: A single-engine plane crashed into a car on a Massachusetts motorway, killing four people, including a child and the plane's two occupants. Police believe the pilot was trying to land after his engine had failed. (AP)



Caine tipped to play F. W. de Klerk

Search for actor to play Mandela

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

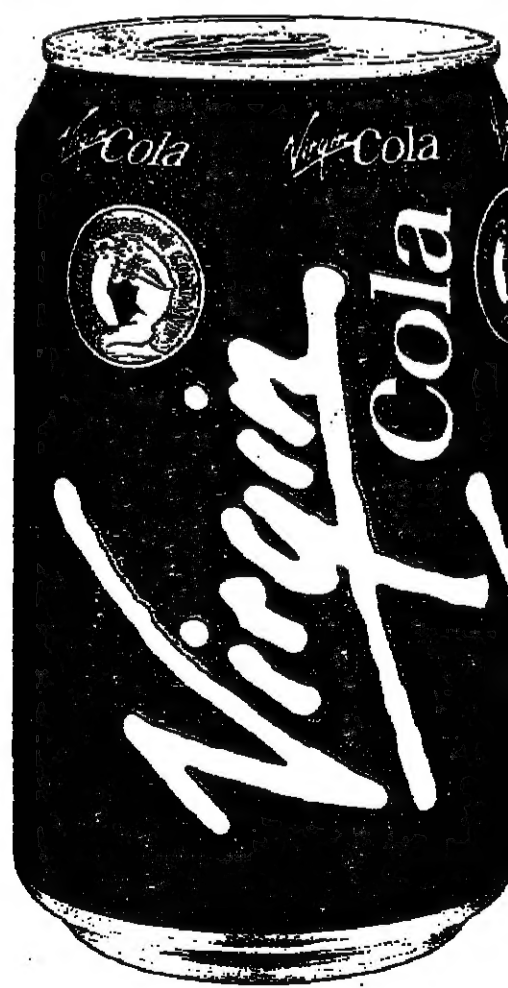
THE search has begun to find a black South African actor to star as Nelson Mandela in the film of his autobiography, *Long Walk To Freedom*.

The film rights to the book have been granted to Anant Singh, a South African producer with an international reputation, and work is planned to start next year. Mr Singh is non-committal over whether a South African will be cast in the role. "I want someone who will do justice to the part and at present I don't know where he will come from," he said yesterday. Mr Mandela said at the weekend: "It is our duty to primarily support our own artists."

His comments came as local actors expressed outrage that Sidney Poitier, the American star, is playing Mr Mandela in another film. Michael Caine is also tipped to play a role in the American-financed production as F. W. de Klerk, the last apartheid ruler, although physically there is no resemblance between the two.

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US agents pursue hacker of secrets across cyberspace

By IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND
GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE United States authorities are seeking the extradition of an Argentine computer hacker who managed to penetrate top-secret American defence files from his bedroom in Buenos Aires.

Julio Cesar Ardita, 21, used a basic computer at his parents' flat to gain access to Pentagon, Nasa and US Navy files, obtaining information about nuclear installations and defence programmes.

In a landmark case of a hacker being counter-hacked, US investigators used the first-ever court order allowing them to bug the Internet to trace the Argentine student.

Señor Ardita started infiltrating US government computer networks a year ago. The Americans claim that while the information was confidential it did not include national security secrets. But they want to interrogate him to find out what he obtained and whether he passed it on.

"This is the biggest cybernetic theft case of the electronic communications era," said Donald Stern, a prosecutor in Boston, who made the extradition request. The Argentine authorities have arrested Señor Ardita but say that the extradition treaty with the US does not include "information crimes".

In Washington, the Justice Department said the case was a preview of an era of cyber-sleuthing, in which FBI agents will spend time at terminals navigating through a web of electronic leads to catch com-

puter crooks. The hacker's father, Julio Rafael Ardita, a retired military officer, told *The Washington Post* that if the systems his son allegedly broke into were vulnerable to a modest home computer there must be something seriously wrong with US security.

"Obviously the North Americans are not very clear about the security of their systems if a kid from South America can enter. I would be ashamed to admit it," he said. His son was alleged to have

"I've infiltrated the US Navy. I have even seen inside submarines"

entered Harvard University computers via the Internet and from there penetrated other networks, including Los Alamos National Laboratory where the first atom bomb was built, Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the US Navy's Research Laboratory in Washington and its Control and Ocean Surveillance Centre in San Diego.

The trail began last August when the US Navy discovered files with whimsical names like Zap and Pinga showing up in its most sensitive computers. Opening the files, managers uncovered a "sniff-

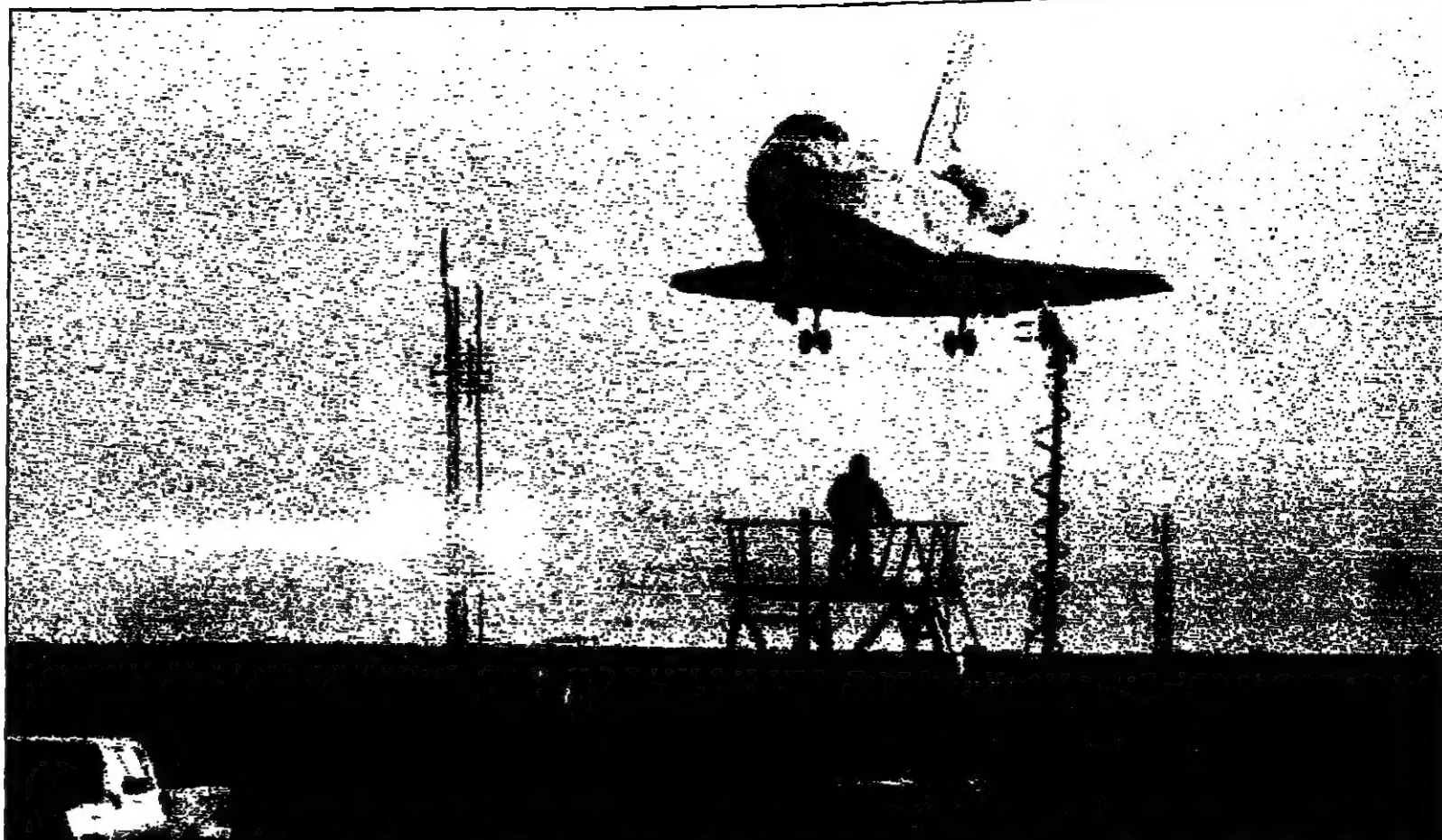
er" programme designed to copy vital information such as passwords. They traced it back to Harvard where evidence of other "sniffer" probes was found.

Federal agents secretly obtained a court order giving them the computer equivalent of a telephone tap, enabling them to monitor private electronic communications coming into Harvard. Using their own high-speed computer, agents searched for 15 key words that might find the intruder among the ten million bits of information per second flowing into the Harvard network.

Whenever the investigators discovered a key word, they looked at only 80 characters on either side of it to keep their electronic eavesdropping to a minimum required by law. Only twice did they read a complete message that was connected to Señor Ardita, according to Stephen Heymann, a federal agent.

Agents tracked the hacker's pattern and eventually traced his whereabouts. Telecom Argentina then taped calls that Señor Ardita made to his girlfriend, in which he admitted illegally tapping into secret files. Monthly telephone bills of up to \$1,150 also led his parents to make inquiries.

"I've infiltrated the US Navy. I've even seen inside submarines and much more," Señor Ardita said in the recordings. "I could very easily have wiped out files and rubbed out any information."



The Atlantis shuttle making a test-book landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California early yesterday at the end of a ten-day voyage to the Mir Russian space station.

On Saturday Atlantis came within ten minutes of having to undertake an emergency return to Earth when its cargo-bay doors refused to open to allow heat to escape (Ian Brodie writes). The crew of five were unable to open the doors when two control switches signalled that four of 16

Crisis turns heat on shuttle

latches had failed to release. The doors finally did open, however, and the shuttle remained in orbit for another day. "Everybody sighed very loudly when the doors opened," said Jeff Bantle, flight director at Mission Control in Houston. "Nervous? Yeah. Tense? Yes. Everybody was on the edge of their chairs. But they all responded very well." The crisis

began after the doors had been ready for a landing attempt at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The landing was cancelled because of cloudy skies. The doors needed to be reopened to allow radiators in the cargo bay to dissipate heat from the shuttle's power and electronic systems. While they remained shut, the shuttle would

have been able to remain in space for only four more hours before the heat build-up would have started to damage electrical circuits.

When Mission Control ordered the astronauts to make visual checks of the latches, it was found they had all unbolted and the crew was ordered to override the automatic system and open the doors. Mr Bantle said that in ten more minutes he would have ordered Atlantis to return to Earth — fast.

Foot soldiers desert US gun lobby

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE seemingly impenetrable façade of the National Rifle Association has finally begun to crack.

In the past year, America's foremost gun rights lobbying group has lost 400,000 members, a 12 per cent drop. Contributions to its political action committee fell by more than a fifth.

The NRA is far from being counted out. It still lavishes money on members of Congress and wields influence over their votes. Only last week House Republicans kept their promise to the NRA by repealing a ban on some of the deadliest assault weapons, a move President Clinton has sworn to veto.

For all its influence, however, the NRA is at last suffering from increased public concern

and a sustained counter-campaign by anti-gun lobbyists — including hundreds of police forces — over the spread of weapons and violent crime.

The Dunblane tragedy received wide and sympathetic coverage in the United States, with considerable public interest in the technicalities of obtaining a British gun licence and the subsequent calls for a ban on all guns outside clubs and target practice.

The NRA, as it were, shot itself in the foot with a fundraising letter last year that described federal agents as "jack-booted government thugs". In the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing, the strident rhetoric was widely criticised as an incitement to anti-government militias.

George Bush, the former Pres-

ident, cancelled his lifetime NRA membership, saying the broadside offended his sense of honour and concept of service to country.

Mr Bush typified the NRA's dilemma of being unable to satisfy all its factions. His primary interest was in supporting the rights of hunters. Like many other sportsmen, he was ill at ease with the NRA's zealous pursuit of the right to bear arms.

Dave Edmondson, a former NRA board member, said the association was not as flexible as most of its members would like. "If the NRA wants to stop losing members they've got a long way to go," he said.

NRA membership increased by nearly a million from 1990 to a peak of 3.5 million, a figure that has now

tumbled to 3.1 million. Contributions to its political action committee have declined from \$1.74 million (£1 million) to \$1.36 million last year.

Tanya Metaksa, the NRA's legislative director, said the drop in membership was due in part to a \$10 increase in annual dues to \$35. The loss of political donations was attributed to a lack of motivation after Republicans took control of Congress.

As evidence of the NRA's continued power, she cited the passage of laws in seven states giving citizens the right to bear concealed arms. The states include Texas where one man has already been shot dead at traffic lights during an altercation over a clipped wing mirror. A grand jury cleared the gunman of murder.

Seeking happiness in a pill bottle

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

IF THE cliché about the excitable Gallic temperament no longer seems quite so accurate it may be due more to chemical assistance than any natural calming of the national psyche.

France is the world's leading consumer of tranquillisers and anti-depressants, a report published last week confirmed. Troubled by recessionary woes, millions of French are taking three times more tranquillisers, anti-depressants and sleeping tablets than their more stoic British and German cousins.

Even the Italians take only half the number of *calmants*. Professor Edouard Zarifian, a leading French psychiatrist and the report's author, says a massive 11 per cent of adults regularly take tranquillisers and anti-depressants. Women over 60 and the unemployed are among the heaviest users.

More than 30 per cent of older women take tranquillisers regularly while an unemployed person is more than twice as likely to be prescribed anti-depressants as someone in full-time work.

Professor Zarifian blames a medical profession insufficiently trained in psychiatric problems and the pharmaceutical industry's aggressive marketing strategies.

Dole taxed by wages issue

By IAN BRODIE

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S opening salvo against Bob Dole, his election opponent, is a demand for him to stop blocking a Senate vote that would raise the minimum wage. It is a popular issue. Polls show that three out of four American voters support an increase in the minimum pay of \$4.25 (£2.80) an hour, a

figure that has remained unchanged for five years.

Mr Clinton is proposing an increase to \$5.15 in two 45-cent steps over the next two years.

Mr Dole, the Senate Republican leader, is easily skewered on the topic. Senators' pay has gone up by a third in the past five years to \$133,600 while about four million Americans have been stuck at \$4.25 an hour and another eight mil-

lion earn barely a dollar more.

A full-time worker on the minimum wage earns \$8,500 a year, almost half the poverty line set for a family of four. With the effects of inflation, the minimum wage is at its lowest level for 40 years.

Yet Mr Dole insisted during a Senate debate last week that raising the minimum would result in the sacking of tens of thousand of workers.

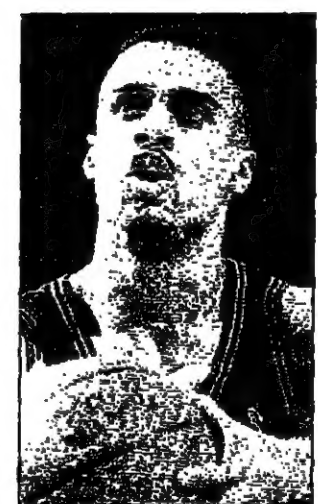
'Shock jocks' trumpet American divisions

New York: Two radio disc jockeys have been forced to apologise after they entered a Colorado mosque and, wearing turbans, played the American national anthem on two cassettes (Queen Letts writes). They disturbed the faithful and asked: "What's the matter? Don't you believe in the national anthem?"

The escapade was broadcast live on the Denver radio station, KBPL, which employs the two "shock jocks". It has agreed to apologise to the mosque in newspaper and

television advertisements, and will start an "awareness and sensitivity" counselling programme for its staff. It called for a "healing process".

The two, Roger Beary, 39, and William Jones, 33, entered the Denver mosque after the much-publicised refusal of a Muslim basketball player, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, to stand for the US national anthem. The star player of the Denver Nuggets, who said the anthem symbolised "oppression and tyranny", worships at the mosque.



Abdul-Rauf: anthem "a symbol of oppression"

Montana militiaman surrenders to FBI

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

ANOTHER member of the Freemen anti-government militia was in police custody yesterday as more than 100 FBI agents maintained their week-long siege of the group's compound. They did so under the gaze of many militia members who had travelled from other parts of America to the plains of Montana to monitor the federal operation.

Richard Clark, 47, a farmer, surrendered to police 100 miles from the Freemen's Justus Township ranch. He was away from the compound when the

siege began last Monday with the arrest of the group's ringleader, LeRoy Schweitzer, and a colleague, Daniel Petersen. The men were tricked out of the compound by an undercover FBI agent.

Mr Schweitzer, who appeared in military fatigues at a court in Billings, the nearest city, yesterday ended a five-day hunger strike after being moved to a prison hospital in Missouri. Mr Petersen, when he appeared in court, shouted: "You watch, folks. When it goes, it'll be worse than Waco."

The FBI wants to avert any repetition of the violence at a similar siege last year in Waco, Texas, but the Freemen are

believed to have at least 11,000 rounds of ammunition and many guns.

The Freemen do not recognise the authority of the federal government, and allegedly ran a forgery and tax evasion school for like-minded rebels. For more than a year they have frightened residents in the nearby village of Jordan.

The FBI decided to take action a week after an exasperated Jordan villager, Tom Stanton, recruited a 25-strong posse armed with hunting rifles and disclosed plans to attack Justus Township. The FBI has arrest warrants for 13 of the Freemen, estimates of whose number vary from 20 to 60.

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Send your entry to: **The Times Screenwriting Competition 1996**, PO Box 510, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 9QS. Closing date May 9, 1996. Full terms and conditions appeared in last week.

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Terror tactics give Kohl weapon to ensure euro keeps its 1999 deadline

Enraging though the beef dispute with the rest of Europe may be for ministers and MPs who can think about little else except the next election, pay careful attention to a date in the European Union calendar that will have more impact than Friday's jamboree in Turin and will matter more than mad cows.

In just under a fortnight, Ken Clarke and his fellow finance ministers will attend a working weekend in the Palladian splendour of Verona. The agenda is packed with bland jargon that hides

the meaning of what is going on: a "stability pact" for a single currency, the "ins and outs" debate and a new currency grid dubbed "son of ERM". The ministers will actually be mulling over plans for a redesign of the European economy. Their blueprints will affect the pay packet, mortgage and job security of every European far more directly than anything discussed in Turin.

The plans laid in Verona will work only if the "euro" becomes the single currency in some EU countries in 1999 — and real life has a habit of

upsetting grand designs. The French and German political establishments admit no doubts, however: monetary union can and will happen.

Two days just spent at a "Königswinter" conference in the company of German opinion-makers gave me a fascinating glimpse of how Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, hopes to demolish those obstacles littering the road to monetary union. His strategy is neither pretty nor reassuring.

Among his fellow leaders, Herr Kohl works by what nuclear weapons experts would



THIS WEEK IN EUROPE

once have called a "balance of terror". Any Prime Minister who speaks against monetary union is given the cold shoulder. Save for John Ma-

joor, this works. Swedes are probably at least as dubious about a single currency as Britons, but the Swedish Government keeps many of its doubts under wraps.

Herr Kohl has bigger problems with his own countrymen, who show no sign of wanting the euro in their wallets. Bankers and journalists may voice coded monetary-union warnings, but openly doubting the single currency is like questioning the final goal (*das Endziel*) of the Nazi Government, one senior German journalist told the conference. Dissent-

ers, from the Bavarian anti-EMU campaigner Manfred Brunner to the Social Democrats who think the single currency will cost jobs, have been humiliated in elections.

Asked how Herr Kohl would persuade Germans to love the euro by 1998 — when Germany holds a general election — another journalist predicted: "Kohl will say to voters OK, so monetary union may be a lousy idea, but it's just a question of whether Germany is in or out of Europe. With me, you're in. If you

vote for the opposition, you may be out." In German politics, this sales pitch will be strong magic. The postwar German generation has been brought up to believe that every German is a stakeholder in the business of proving that Germany will never threaten Europe with war again.

This stark choice for the German voter will be accompanied by persuasion and pressure on France and Britain. France will be made to pay the price of its insistence that Germany give up the mark by agreeing to far

closer political integration than it wishes. "There must be parallels in sacrificing sovereignty," Jürgen Stark, the German junior Finance Minister, said a few days ago. "Put it simply: we will only pay our police in euros when they are allowed to operate across borders in Europe."

For Herr Kohl, Britain is a lesser problem: his latest hope is to take business away from the City if Britain stays out, and wait for impoverished businessmen to become campaigners for the euro.

GEORGE BROCK

Yeltsin announces Chechen ceasefire and troop pullout

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN attempted to try to clear up the biggest political headache in his re-election campaign yesterday, when he announced a ceasefire and a partial troop withdrawal from Chechnya.

In a national television address Mr Yeltsin admitted that the 15-month war in Chechnya was "Russia's biggest problem". Hinting at greater flexibility than Moscow has displayed in a year, he said he was prepared to talk to General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the rebel Chechen leader, but only through intermediaries. A Chechen official said the offer was not good enough.

General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, Russia's top commander in Chechnya, said yesterday that it was impossible to stop all military operations in the breakaway region immediately.

Even as Mr Yeltsin was speaking, there were reports that Russia's helicopter gunships and fixed-wing aircraft were attacking the village of Golskoye, a rebel stronghold 20 miles south of Grozny, the Chechen capital.

Chechnya has become a vital election issue for Mr Yeltsin as he struggles to be re-elected for a second term as President on June 16. A recent poll in the *Sogodnyaya* news-

paper identified the war as the most important issue for voters.

The new plan, which has been heralded many times and frequently delayed, is aimed at scaling down the war. That should at least take it off Russian television screens during the election campaign.

Most army units will be pulled out and Interior Ministry troops and local police loyal to the Moscow-installed Chechen Government will take on the bulk of their work. Local elections will be held within the next few months

Minsk march backs treaty

Minsk: Tens of thousands of demonstrators, mostly Communists, marched in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, yesterday in support of President Lukashenko's plan, announced last week, to negotiate a treaty for a stronger union between the republic and Russia. Hundreds of students held a counter-demonstration denouncing the treaty. A week earlier, 15,000 people held a similar march. (AP)

and a new treaty will be signed giving Chechnya a high level of autonomy within the Russian Federation.

However, a leading rebel representative dismissed the speech as pre-election window-dressing. In Istanbul, Usman Imaev, who led the Chechen negotiating team at talks last summer, said the main issue — of negotiations between General Dudayev and the Russian authorities on the status of Chechnya — remained unresolved.

Moscow has branded General Dudayev a criminal and put out a warrant for his arrest. The general has said he is prepared to continue the war with Russia "for 50 years" and insists on nothing less than full independence for Chechnya.

"The minimum we ask is a meeting with Yeltsin or [Viktor] Chernomyrdin," said Mr Imaev, referring to the Russian Prime Minister. "The maximum is negotiations under the aegis of the United Nations. The Russian Federation cannot solve this on its own."

In the past few weeks, Russian forces have conducted a brutal offensive that was clearly designed to secure a maximum military advantage before the peace plan was unveiled. Several southern



President Yeltsin prepares for the televised ceasefire announcement yesterday

and western villages were shelled and bombed, causing heavy civilian casualties. At the same time, other villages were coerced into signing "peace agreements".

Mr Yeltsin did not say all hostilities would stop and left the ceasefire open to a wide margin of interpretation.

"Of course we will not tolerate terrorist actions. Re-

sponses to them will be adequate. The security of Russian citizens must be strictly maintained," he said.

Leading article, page 17

Giscard d'Estaing bows out to leave Léotard in charge

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE FORMER French President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, saw his long-cherished hope of a triumphal return to the Elysée Palace finally extinguished yesterday as he reluctantly relinquished control over the Union pour la Démocratie Française, the liberal centre-right alliance he created in 1978, to François Léotard, the former Defence Minister.

The race to succeed M Giscard d'Estaing as UDF president was won easily by M Léotard, leader of the Parti Républicain which forms the majority of the UDF alliance. Heavily tipped to win, he carried 57 per cent of the secret ballot yesterday in Lyons. He was supported by François Bayrou, the Education Minister and leader of the UDF's second largest party, the Force Démocratique.

His main contender for the leadership was Alain Madelin, 50, the former Finance Minister and deputy leader of the Parti Républicain, whose ambitions to succeed Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, are widely recognised.

In contrast with most UDF colleagues, who supported Edouard Balladur, M Madelin campaigned actively for Jacques Chirac during last year's presidential elections. He was rewarded with a Cabinet post as Finance Minister but was sacked last summer by M Juppé after speaking out about welfare cuts for public-sector workers.

M Giscard d'Estaing had already said he would not seek re-election. His announcement, during his speech yesterday, that his vote would go to M Madelin was greeted by boos and whistles from M Léotard's supporters, but came as no surprise. M Giscard d'Estaing has long resented M Léotard for an earlier attempt to oust him.

The UDF, which unites five parties, faces problems of division and, in a farewell letter, the former French President took a pessimistic view of the survival of the alliance he founded 18 years ago. "If the UDF does not quickly take a step towards unity, I do not predict much of a future," he wrote to his party.

M Léotard said yesterday that his first objective as president would be one of reconciliation. On learning of his defeat, M Madelin declared he would continue his "campaign for political revival at the heart of the UDF".

M Léotard, who campaigned under the theme of a new "team spirit", faces a major challenge to unite the alliance's disparate elements in time for 1998's legislative elections. He is expected to introduce much-needed reforms in party organisation, including a more democratic election process. "It is up to us, in a spirit of harmony and reconciliation to ensure that the UDF triumphs in 1998," he told delegates yesterday.

Bosnian 'massacre site' to be examined

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE

WAR crimes investigators are due to start examining the notorious suspected mass grave sites around Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia this week. However, the investigators from the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague may not begin digging for the suspected Muslim victims of alleged Serb atrocities for months, until after the Nato-led Implementation Force has left at the end of the year.

Washington is worried that the opening of the suspected grave sites would bring vehement new demands for the capture of indicted war crimes suspects, such as the Bosnian Serb political and military leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. Up to 8,000 Muslim men are believed to have been murdered by separatist Serbs in July 1995 when they captured Srebrenica.

William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, has won a pledge from the Croatian Government to hand over Thomir Blaskic, a Bosnian Croat general, to the war crimes tribunal today, for alleged massacres of Muslim civilians. Serbia has handed over two Serb soldiers, Drazen Erdemovic and Radoslav Kremenovic, identified as witnesses to atrocities in Srebrenica.

Tito's widow 'held prisoner' in Serbia

BY DESSA TREVISAN AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

JOVANKA BROZ, the widow of Marshal Tito — the architect of postwar Yugoslavia — claims she is being kept a virtual prisoner by Serbia and her life under guard in Belgrade, the capital, is a misery. "I am very hurt by the way they have treated me. I live alone and am surrounded only by people whose duty it is to keep an eye on me," she says in an interview with a Belgrade weekly. "I have neither a passport nor any other document. Even when I visit my relatives or few friends, I have to inform the guards."

Jovanka married Tito in 1952 when she was 23 years old and he 60. They met when



Jovanka Broz: hurt by her treatment

she fought for the Partisans during the Second World War. Days after his death in 1980, she was forced to leave Tito's residence, the White Palace. She has since lived in a house in the luxurious Belgrade suburb of Dedinje.

Jovanka was ostracised by Tito for the last three years of his life when he was said to have taken two mistresses as mistresses. She says: "Tito was everything to me. I played my whole life on just one card — that I am the wife of Marshal Tito."

As Tito became frailer in the late 1970s, the authorities feared she would try to gain political influence. When he began his liaison with the mistresses and to live in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, she became unwelcome. In the interview, she describes how she was kept away from his deathbed. "One day, former President Lazar Kolisevski came to me and said Tito was going into hospital and would have his leg amputated. It was the [Communist] Party Central Committee that made decisions, not the family. I was informed about Tito's death by one of the members of the collective presidency."

Tito's two sons by previous marriages were allowed to be with him in his dying days.

Although Tito lived lavishly, his personal wealth was pitifully small and he never owned any property or held foreign bank accounts.

Baby kept terrorist out of prison

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

AMID a growing uproar over lax Italian prison conditions, senior Rome judges yesterday sought to justify allowing a convicted Red Brigades terrorist to have a child and spend nearly two years at liberty.

Cecilia Massara, 42, was rearrested at the weekend to serve the rest of her life sentence. Her son, now a year old, will live in her cell until he is three "because there is no one else to look after him", according to Alessandro Marara, head of the Rome parole board.

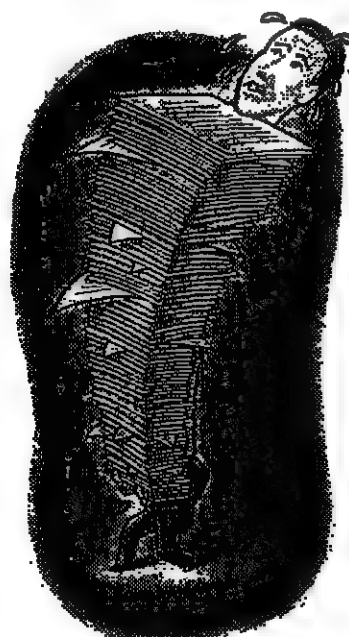
Provisions for parole and good conduct leave have been under close scrutiny since last month's escape of Majed Yousef Molgi, a Palestinian convicted of the 1985 murder of a disabled Jewish passenger on the hijacked Achille Lauro cruise ship. Molgi was rearrested in Spain after three weeks on the run. Two other Palestinian terrorists who have absconded from Italian jails are at large, causing tension between Italy and other Western countries.

Massara, whose Red Brigades nickname was Carla, was arrested in 1984. She had played a leading part in attacks including the bombing of the Rome offices of the Christian Democrats, the kidnapping of a suspected informer, the murder of a judge, and the attempted robbery of an armoured security van carrying bank funds. The robbery ended in a shoot-out with police during which Massara was wounded and arrested. After a four-year investigation, she was given a life sentence in 1988.

She married a fellow Red Brigades terrorist, Giuseppe Scirocco, in jail, and became pregnant in May 1994.

Although her sentence had been confirmed the previous year, the authorities set her free because women may not be jailed if they are pregnant, or for six months after giving birth, or for a further six months if the child has no other carer.

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DEAD-END HOST?

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ VISUAL ART

At the Royal Academy, Gustave Caillebotte is revealed as a substantial artist, not just a wealthy and discerning collector
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



■ OPERA

Isabelle Vernet takes the title role in Scottish Opera's staging of Gluck's great reforming work, *Alceste*
OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

Dominic Dromgoole bids farewell to the Bush with his production of *Clocks and Whistles*
OPENS: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ CABARET

Denny Laine, once of the Moody Blues and Paul McCartney's Wings, brings his hits to the Café Royal
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

The organisers of some of Britain's most exciting art events tell **Simon Tait** about their latest plan

Tailors of the unexpected

The duo behind some of the most controversial and successful visual art of the past few years will tonight unveil their latest project — and, as usual, say very little about it.

Artangel — run by James Lingwood and Michael Morris — first came to prominence in 1993. The year before, the two men had called a press conference at the Groucho Club to announce that they were commissioning a work by the sculptor Rachel Whiteread. "We got the press there, packed them in this tiny room, said we were doing something with Rachel — and nothing else," Lingwood says. "Up to the day of the unveiling we tried to let nobody know at all what was going on, because if we'd have said she was going to do a cast of a whole house everyone would have had an expectation of what it was going to look like and it would have been compared with those expectations."

When Whiteread's *House* was finally revealed, it, well, brought the house down. The sculpture was almost literally here today and gone tomorrow. It was lauded and lauded, brought derision and delight. It was the first "produced" piece of event sculpture. Whiteread won the Turner Prize, and Artangel won mainstream attention — if not acceptance.

Before joining Artangel the two were both at the ICA — Lingwood as curator of objects and Morris as director of theatre. Under them, Artangel's projects expanded. They were to be shaped by their locations alone, constructed in any medium or any combination of media.

First came Michael Clark's dance piece *Amn*, which created a blur of action in the King's Cross Warehouse, then Hans Peter Kuhn's *Five Floors*, devised to bring noise to a painfully silent office block. Last year saw Tassuo Miyajima's Japan Festival Award-winning *Running Time* in the Queen's House in Greenwich, which was plunged into total blackness for a neon representation of time. Then came *For HG*, the installation by Kuhn and Robert Wilson at Clink Street Vaults, a critical success that was also seen by 20,000 people.

Artangel's latest commission will be announced tonight in an empty, almost derelict, Georgian building in St James's Square, the heart of London's clubland. There, the press will meet the Mexican sculptor Gabriel Orozco. Work, theoretically, begins tomorrow.



Artangel got Rachel Whiteread's controversial *House* off the ground. Tonight the company will reveal what it can about its new project

"What he'll do we've no idea," Morris says happily. "Gabriel will start in one building and in the next two or three months will move the project from place to place. He hasn't decided which ones yet, but we've looked at a lot. He wanted it to be in London as the heart of a certain kind of culture."

The prospect might be of the members of Boodles being greeted by "a disarming articulation of emptiness", as Orozco's New York show last year was described by a critic, or the functors at the RAC by a classic four-door Citroën with the middle third removed to create a two-seater, as Orozco did in Paris in 1994.

This will be his first time working in Britain, and he has, at least, a theme. "He's very interested in the whole English obsession with etiquette and games and clubs," Morris says, "and the rules and codes which

are often quite concealed but of enormous importance in the way we still live. It'll be something to do with that."

Lord Gowrie, the chairman of the Arts Council, will also be on hand tonight, to announce that this will be the first project in a long-term collaboration to create a fund for contemporary art. With its sponsorship partners Beck's, the brewer, Artangel has created a four-year programme which will produce one piece a year until the millennium.

Beck's has committed £125,000 to the programme, and another £125,000 will come from Artangel's panel of patrons, known as the Company of Angels. This is a group of up to 100 people a year who each contribute £300. The Angels range from the mega-rich to the fairly poor and include the rock musician Dave Stewart, the architect Piers Gough,

the property tycoon Harry Handelman, the restaurateur Jeremy King and the art dealers Jay Jopling and Anthony D'Offay.

"Half of them are people who would want to give more if we let them, the other half will never be patrons of art again but just want to be part of a piece of work," Morris says. "With a standard £300 each nobody is more of a patron than anyone else."

The new sponsorship arrangement puts Artangel's site-specific productions — the company's word for them — on as near a firm financial footing as Morris and Lingwood dare go without making the art too safe. It is a new deal for contemporary commissioning, entailing the firm commitment to funding before the work starts which every artist needs, but seldom gets.

"Beck's is prepared to invest in the

unknown and unfamiliar, whereas every other sponsor wants to invest in the known and the familiar," Morris says. "Nobody else would have wanted to underpin Rachel Whiteread's *House*, but Beck's did and it got the dividends."

What it means is that the risk is shared with the sponsors, who effectively become co-commissioners and an intrinsic part of the project, instead of merely the bankers. "Trying to summarise our way of thinking about it, we feel there's a very volatile chemistry to this commissioning process," Lingwood says. "We know some of the things we are contributing to the mixture, but we don't try to predict what the end result will be, so we know that the excitement is not diminished for us or for the audience."

Or, from today, for the distinguished clubmen of St James's.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

Cool, calm and connected

COMPARED with recent blockbuster events, Tuesday night's BBC Symphony Orchestra concert seemed a very temperate affair: a characteristically delicate score from the late Tōru Takemitsu, introspective Mozart and tranquil Vaughan Williams.

In fact it is as dangerous to categorise the latter's *Pastoral* Symphony as innocently idyllic as it is to depict Mozart's last piano concerto (K595 in B flat) as "valedictory". There is rather more to the *Pastoral* than green fields. Written in the shadow of the First World War, it articulates a restrained, but palpable, response to the recent horror.

Andrew Davis's account hinted unmistakably at underlying tensions in a first movement that was kept restlessly on the move. Those tensions are brought to the surface in the gentle tonal clashes at the start of the second movement, and the offstage trumpet solo had an aptly elegiac air. The distant soprano solo that opens the finale (Patricia Rozario) floated down from the top of the auditorium, returning later to frame the composer's passionate plea on behalf of suffering humanity.

Mozart's K595 may not be quite the swansong it was once

BBC SO/Davis
Festival Hall

regarded but there is no denying its autumnal mood. Lars Vogt's underdramatic reading might have shown a touch more affection in its shaping of phrases but it served well enough and caught the prevalent wistful quality successfully.

Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea II* is a suite of three pieces originally written for alto flute and guitar, transcribed for alto flute, harp and strings. With its gently impressionist harmonies inevitably invoking Debussy, it is one of Takemitsu's most listener-friendly scores, establishing an equilibrium between exotic sensibility and cool, poised serenity. Patrick Gallois and Fabrice Pierre were the atmospheric flautist and harpist, and Gallois contributed an unscheduled extra item: an Aria that was Takemitsu's last completed work. Sensuous harmonies this time were implied rather than stated on the unaccompanied flute. It was a touching tribute to a lamented master.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Handel with care

King's Consort
Queen Elizabeth Hall

THERE is no doubt that Handel's *Joseph and his Brethren* has been unjustly neglected: how much this is due to the repudiation of it by the Handel scholar Winton Dean is not clear. It is true that it stands in the shadow of *Semele*, its partner-oratorio from 1744, but it is nevertheless a work obviously written by a composer at the height of his powers.

Initially, Dean's reservations would seem to be confirmed. Part I is pleasant enough and abounds in choice items such as Joseph's prison lament and a charming flute-accompanied duet with his bride-to-be Asenath, but it is hardly gripping.

However, from the introduction of Joseph's brother Simeon in the second prison scene in Part II, the temperature rises from his first dramatic accompanied recitative to the spine-tingling suspensions in the aria in which he admits his guilt.

The performance went up a notch from precisely the same point, not least because John Mark Ainsley was cast as Simeon. Ainsley is an instinctive Handelian, and his honed tones and perfectly judged and communicated in-

terpretation made his contribution the high point of the evening.

There was fine singing, too, from Yvonne Kenny as Asenath and the other members of the King's Consort team: James Bowman, Michael George, Catherine Denley and the treble, Connor Burrows, who sang with admirable poise and expressivity. But Bowman seemed vocally tired, perhaps because the piece had just been recorded for Hyperion, and one of his arias was cut.

It is unusual these days for a concert to be performed after the recording sessions, and the benefits were apparent in the playing of the King's Consort (more polished than I have heard for a while) and the confident singing of the choir of New College, Oxford.

Overall, it lacked a sense of dramatic pacing, and it was a big mistake to break for the interval after Simeon's soliloquy when Handel had just got into his stride.

TESS KNIGHTON

As tears go by

POP

Marianne Faithfull
Jazz Café, NW1

WHAT better way for the singer who has lived a little to reflect on that experience than via the words of someone who lived a lot? These days, any performer who has ever woken up on Saturday morning unable to remember the latter half of Friday night feels him or herself empowered to write the last ounce of misery and melodrama from the lurid canon of Jacques Brel or Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill. Indeed, those of a certain age rush to the edge of excess just so they can halt in the nick of time, record a thematic album, and then confidently await the critical and sales renaissance that will inevitably follow.

But if anyone is entitled to make a claim to the works of Brecht and Weill, it is Marianne Faithfull. Never the most technically blessed of singers, she can now offer a hard-won sense of character in compensation for her undisguisable lack of range.

On Wednesday, in the second of two Camden performances, she proved the potency of her own iconography by blurring distinctions between herself and the narrators she portrayed through heavily self-referential between-song asides. Prowling the small stage like a black-garbed Joycean vamp, she pursued a mainly chronological route through the Weimar

Republic — with occasional detours in homage to other writers (Harry Nilsson's *Don't Forget Me*, Noël Coward's *30th Century Blues*). Although not, perhaps, the most authoritative guide to this well-trodden terrain, she still achieved fresh insights. Accompanied only by the keyboard player Paul Truber, and relying largely on English translations by Frank McGuinness, Faithfull did not shy away from material now so familiar as to be almost unsingable (*Falling in Love Again*, *Mack the Knife*), but showed particular confidence on the less obviously picturesque (*Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, a brave *Complainte de la Seine*).

But it was her skill as a raconteuse, only too well aware of her own mythology that gave the evening a special piquancy. While lamenting her limited skills as an actress, she was interrupted by a cry of "What about *Girl on a Motorcycle*?" "Yes," she replied, with a proud toss of her head. "I remember that. Vaguely."

ALAN JACKSON

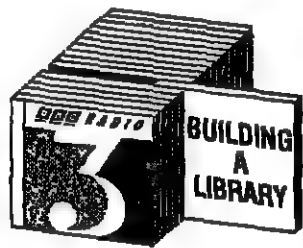
CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BRUCKNER'S FIFTH SYMPHONY
Reviewed by Jonathan Swain

What is a good Bruckner acoustic? In the case of the Fifth Symphony it has to be one that will allow depth and brilliance to a massive organ-like blaze of brass, and one which does not confuse the intricacy of this "contrapuntal masterpiece" (the composer's description). A tall order.

Dohnányi and the Cleveland Orchestra (on Decca) tamed the Symphony to fit it into a small acoustic; DG played tricks with both the tone of the Vienna Philharmonic and the hall acoustics in its Abbado recording, to produce something bright, clear and curiously unspacious. Both Chailly (Decca) and Haitink in his first recording for Philips, have the perfect Bruckner hall (and orchestra) in the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, but the former's recording sounds, in parts, like a run-through, and although Haitink's remains a good buy as part of a complete Bruckner cycle at budget price, there are



more imaginative options. Haitink's remake with the Vienna Philharmonic (Philips) brings, as before, the benefits of steady, integrated tempos, but is rather dull.

The final choice rests with two Austrians: Weller-Möst for invigorating drive and attack with the London Philharmonic (EMI), and Karajan. Like Haitink, he has the courage of Bruckner's convictions, but also the wisdom to put them effectively into practice and the great Berlin Philharmonic is in inimitable form. However, Karajan's Berlin Fifth is only available as part of a complete cycle (DG 429 648-2, 9 CDs, £75).

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barbican Road, London W10 6BL or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Mozart's Symphony No 29



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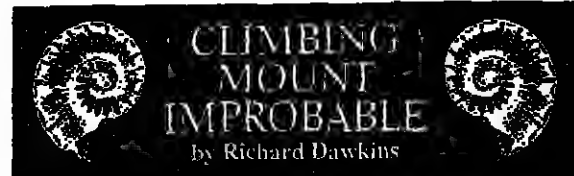
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TODAY

TOMORROW

● How the first flying creatures developed in the primeval forest

● Cutting out God — can evolution explain 'miracles'?

To fly has for so long been a hopeless dream of humanity and, when we achieve it, we do so with such difficulty that it is easy to exaggerate how hard it is. Flying is second nature to the majority of animal species. Even among warm-blooded vertebrates, more than half the species fly. Flying seems formidable to us mainly because we are large animals.

If you are a very small animal, the conquest of the air is no problem. When you are very small, the harder challenge may be to stay on the ground.

'The first flying animals may have simply glided'

Imagine a perfectly scaled-down hippopotamus, the size of a flea. The height (or length, or width) of the real hippo is perhaps a thousand times that of the flea-hippo. The weight of the hippo is then a billion times that of the flea-hippo. The surface area of the hippo is a mere million times that of the flea-hippo. So the flea-hippo has 1,000 times greater surface area for its weight than the large hippo.

It feels like common sense to say that a scaled-down miniature hippo would find it easier to float in the breeze than a full-sized hippo, but it is sometimes important to see what lies behind common sense.

For vertebrates true powered flight has evolved independently in birds, bats and pterosaurs. One possibility is that true flight grew out of the habit of gliding between trees, which lots of animals do. There is a whole world of life in the treetops. For most of the inhabitants of the forest their world is a vast, gently undulating, sunlit green meadow which just happens to be raised up on stilts.

The landscape is not literally unbroken. The aerial meadow is pock-marked with holes where it is possible to fall through to the ground: gaps that need to be bridged. Many kinds of animals are well equipped to leap across quite large gaps. The difference between a successful leap and an unsuccessful one could be a life and death matter. Any change in body shape that has the effect of extending the jumping range a little further could be an advantage. The difference between a squirrel and a rat lies in the tail. The squirrel's tail is feathery with hairs that give it a large surface area to catch the air. A rat with a squirrel's tail would undoubtedly be able to leap a larger gap than a rat with a rat's tail. And, if the ancestors of squirrels had rat-like tails, there would be a continuous ramp of improvement, becoming more and more feathery.

To begin with, an ancestor like an ordinary squirrel, living up trees but without any special gliding membrane, leaps across short gaps. However far it can leap without the aid of any special flaps of skin, it could leap a few inches further if it had a very slightly increased business of the tail. So natural selection favours individuals with slightly pouchy skin around the arm or leg joints, and this becomes the norm.

Now, any individuals with an even larger skin web can leap a few inches further. After many generations, species like the flying squirrels have evolved, capable of gliding hundreds of feet, and capable of steering themselves into a controlled landing.

It is possible that true flying evolved from gliding ancestors like these. It is easy to imagine true flapping flight evolving from repetition of the muscular movements used to control gliding direction. Some biologists, however, think that true flight began on the ground, rather than up trees.

Flying fish take off in this second way, though from the sea rather than the land. They swim at great speed in the water and then shoot out into the air, presumably to the consternation of pursuing predators in the water from whose point of view they would vanish.

Flying fish illustrate the principle that if a gliding animal can move sufficiently fast along the surface it can take off. The principle might work for birds, because they evolved from two-legged dinosaurs some of which probably ran very fast along the ground, as ostriches do today.

Feathers are modified reptilian scales. It is possible that they originally evolved for a different purpose for which they are still very important — heat insulation. At all events, they are made of a horny material which is capable of forming flight surfaces.

Here is one guess as to how flying started in birds. The hypothetical ancestor, which we can imagine as a small, agile dinosaur, runs fast after insects, leaping with its powerful hind legs and snapping at the prey. Insects had evolved into the air long before. A flying insect is perfectly capable of taking evasive action, and the leaping predator would benefit from skill in mid-course correction. The trick is to shift your centre of gravity and the obvious bias to move are the arms. Once the arms are being moved for this purpose, they become more effective at it if they develop surfaces to catch the air.

On the tree-gliding theory, the original role of the proto-wings was to provide lift. Only later were they used for control, and then finally flapping. On the jumping-for-insects theory, control came first, and only later were the arms with their surfaces commandeered to provide lift.

The beauty of this is that the same nervous circuits as were used to control the centre of gravity in the jumping ancestor would, rather effortlessly, have lent themselves to controlling the flight surfaces later in the evolutionary story. Perhaps birds began flying by leaping off the ground, while bats began by gliding out of trees. Or perhaps birds, too, began by gliding out of trees. The debate continues.

● From *Climbing Mount Improbable*, by Richard Dawkins, published by Viking on April 25 (£20). © Richard Dawkins 1986



Dawkins suggests that the ancestors of today's predators might have started to develop flying skills when they leapt into the air in pursuit of insects such as this dungfly

The conquest of the air

THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM

Why we exist



Richard Dawkins

RICHARD DAWKINS, the controversial Oxford biologist, will argue at a Times/Dillons forum that Darwin has the answers to all nature's complexities.

The forum, to be held on Thursday, April 25, marks the publication of Professor Dawkins's latest book, *Climbing Mount Improbable* (Viking, £20). He will discuss the difference between accident and design in nature and will show how DNA has progressed through geological time to create our rich variety of plant and animal life.

Chaired by Sir John Maddox, the former editor of *Nature*, the forum will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Professor Dawkins's book, are available by phoning 0171-915 6613, by faxing the coupon below on 0171-915 6611, or by sending the coupon and your remittance to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be purchased.

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Research triggers rethink on cancer therapy and transplants □ Ancient tools yield bitumen clues

ONE OF THE solidest of scientific theories has come under assault. In the 1950s, F. MacFarlane Burnet in Australia and Sir Peter Medawar in Britain established that the immune system has to be educated before it can recognise and attack invaders such as bacteria and viruses.

The clinching experiment was Medawar's: he showed that while adult mice reject skin transplants from other mice, newborn mice do not, apparently unable to distinguish "self" from "non-self".

Now these venerable experiments have been thrown into doubt. Three different teams report in *Science* that not only can newborns recog-

Immunity is alarming

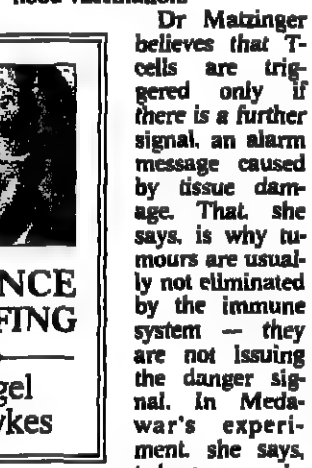
nise foreign material if it is presented to them in the right way, but also that adults can, under appropriate conditions, tolerate foreign material. If accepted, the new results imply that giving immunosuppressive drugs to transplant recipients is ultimately the wrong policy.

The T-cells, which launch the attack on an invader, do not respond to that invader —

or antigen — alone. They need a second signal, from the cells carrying the antigen on its surface, the so-called antigen-presenting cells. And some of these are far more effective than others.

Working at the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, Drs Ephraim Fuchs and Polly Matzinger showed that B cells, one type of antigen-presenting cells, were far less effective than another type, the dendritic cells, which are long, stringy cells able to reach out and contact the T-cells. By increasing the amounts of dendritic cells, Dr Fuchs got newborn mice to respond to antigens, and Dr Matzinger did the opposite, boosting the B cells and persuading adult mice to become tolerant to grafts.

In another paper in the same issue of *Science*, a team from the Veterans Affairs Medical Centre in Baltimore explores the susceptibility of newborn mice to viral infections. Traditionally, this is believed to be the result of the newborn's immature immune system, but the team shows this is not so. The mice can mount an immune response, but only to low levels of the virus — initial dose is everything. This could have important implications for childhood vaccination.



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Dr Matzinger believes that T-cells are triggered only if there is a further signal, an alarm message caused by tissue damage. That, she says, is why tumours are usually not eliminated by the immune system — they are not issuing the danger signal. In Medawar's experiment, she says, tolerance in newborns appeared because there were simply too few dendritic cells present to produce the stimulatory signal.

Not everyone is yet convinced, but if she is right, the result could be a new approach to immunology, cancer therapy and organ transplantation. The key will be identifying the alarm signal.

How Stone Age man got all glued up



MAN invented glue nearly 40,000 years ago, according to a team of French scientists who have studied ancient stone tools from a site in Syria. The tools are covered with traces of bitumen, used to attach them to wooden shafts.

The bitumen — a material now used for surfacing roads and waterproofing roofs — appears to have been heated to make it a more effective glue.

The team, led by Dr Eric Boëda of the University of Paris in Nanterre, analysed black material on the stone tools from a site at Um el Tiel in Syria using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry.

The presence of alkanes and aromatics containing 15 carbon atoms confirm that it is weathered bitumen. They report in *Nature*. Where the

bitumen came from is unknown, but it was probably found in a natural hydrocarbon "seep", such as occur in many places in the world.

The tools date from a very interesting period, at about the time that modern man first emerged. Scientific analysis of the excavation layer immediately above the tools indicates that it is 36,000 years old, but the team believes that the tools may be much older.

If so, they would force a change in our perception of Stone Age technology, since the earlier period has hitherto been linked to much cruder techniques.

If men living considerably more than 40,000 years ago were capable of finding bitumen, heating it, and using it as a form of mastic to glue an axehead to a haft, then we may have to reconsider carefully just how sophisticated they really were.

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Hip parents - who needs them?

Members of the Sixties generation are behaving like teenagers to the embarrassment of their children, says Joe Joseph

You just can't avoid them nowadays, hanging out in their Adidas trainers and their pink mini-skirts and velvet hipsters, with those Walkmans that leak Pulp and Blur into the underground carriage, all raving about *Trainspotting* and that cute habit they have of calling everything "bad" when they really mean good, which just impresses the hell out of Harvey Nichols salesgirls and also Marco Pierre White, no really it does. Jeez, hip parents - who needs them?

To a teenager, it's embarrassing enough having parents at all without having parents who have tongue-studs and sing Suede in the Renault Espace when it's their turn to do the school run.

But Britain is suddenly swarming with baby-boomer mothers and fathers who hear Carnaby Street and Swinging London: men and women who feel that because they remember the Beatles the first time around they can use their experience to help their own children through adolescence - just as they help their own children through algebra because they, too, went to school once.

These are parents who couldn't stomach punk, couldn't decipher rap, but who think that Britpop is as balmy and as generation-friendly as the Beatles. Even the *Financial Times* writes articles about the current music scene. A space alien glancing at the British "indie" record charts might assume that Oasis - at number one in both the singles and the album charts - was some marginal band that has developed a cult following among rebellious youth.

What keeps Oasis rich, however, is not the pocket money of 15-year-olds but the loose change of 45-year-old barristers and accountants and Saatchi copywriters who are undergoing a second adolescence. As Ma and Pa hum, "Some might say, we will find, de-doo-de-doo-doo, Some might say, da-dum-dee-dum-dee-da..." their mortified teenage children are just wishing they could behave like all their friends' parents and funnel their energies into something more appropriate, like campaigning for Frank Field's bids to be reissued on interactive CD-Rom.

The way Jonathan King still chirrups away about pop music and groovy this and funky that you'd think he

hadn't started shaving yet. And MP-turned-novelist Edwina Currie debates the horniness of her sex scenes with her daughter. Why?

Even John Redwood - the Tory MP who is so straight he could serve as the template for the uncurved EU-approved cucumber - even he has been drooling over Britpop, though he tried to forestall derision by adding (with a nod to Orwellian double-think) that: "I do not admire middle-aged trendies who pretend to a second teenage by strenuously enjoying modern stars."

I don't know what this confession has done for Redwood's Tory leadership hopes, or his standing with the groovers of the 1922 Committee of Conservative backbenchers, but the thought of John Redwood gyrating like Jarvis Cocker in the House of Commons lobby mumbled "I want

to sleep with common people, I want to sleep with common people like you. Well what else could I do?" has probably sent the nation's shocked youth into a crisis of identity.

Next thing you know, Redwood will be wearing his Gaultier sunglasses inside the parliamentary chamber

and instead of just trying to catch Madam Speaker's eye when he wants to register disapproval of something another MP has said, he will ape Jarvis Cocker's snub to Michael Jackson at the Brit Awards and saunter uninvited into the opposition benches and make unseemly gestures.

Teen-again parents should consider this: first, that you deny teenagers their right to rebel against grown-ups if parents are doing exactly what their children are doing; secondly, a 48-year-old woman trying to act like a teenager becomes, in technical sociological jargon, "one sad mother".

There are of course some sensitive, indulgent children who take their mothers to one side and tell them that "being a liberal, open-minded kind of daughter I'm very happy for you to walk the streets of Essex wearing Patrick Cox knee-high black leather boots like those Nancy Sinatra had made for her to go walking in, just as soon as I've changed my name by deed poll and had a chance to move to Alaska".

As Noel Coward noticed, cheap music can be strangely potent. Tunes trigger memories. Pop songs do for us what dunking madeleine did for Proust. They become punctuation marks in our lives. A song, heard years later, yanks



Teen-again: John Redwood has been drooling over Britpop. Edwina Currie checks out her sex scenes with her daughter and Jonathan King still chirrups like a teenager

us back in time - often to a specific moment. To a teenage boy, Oasis's *Morning Glory* might catapult him back to his first date with Susie or Mimi. If Oasis's *Morning Glory* is also the tune that reminds his parents of the bash they held to celebrate their twentieth wedding anniversary, well, the effect on family bonds could be uncomfortable. Freudians might fear the effect may even be a little kinky.

the river by re-forming for a world concert tour, even though they now quiver with all the anarchy of a Pep-linked private pension plan.

Even the Pope has robbed youth of one of its icons by wearing Doc Martens.

There are many embarrassing ways to grow old, including trying to get your hairpiece. But never seeing 15 again has many rewards.

As a 50-year-old, you do not have to pine anxiously for sex all day and night: indeed, often you may not be pining for sex at all. At 50 you will be pining for really kinky things - those things that you would once have been far too embarrassed to confess a craving for, like reruns of *Terry and June* and discreet liposuction.

You can behave badly at home without the threat of being sent up to your room. You can snigger at the sight of grandpa Mick Jagger still prancing around a stage in tights. At 50, if no longer matters that you weren't at Woodstock. You did, however, go to the Isle of Wight and long since vowed never to sleep in

the open-air again, unless it was on a \$500-a-night veranda in the Caribbean.

At 50 you realise that being on first-name terms with a good tax accountant is more rewarding than being on first-name terms with Damon Albarn of Blur - unless Damon has been taking evening classes in the new tax

assessment rules and is up to speed on high-yield Chilean investment trusts.

You no longer need to bother trying to impress anyone, and if you walk blankly past an unlikable old acquaintance, people will think you forgetful rather than rude.

Instead of hanging around outside the Bar Italia in Soho

at three o'clock on a Saturday morning, trying to control your hormones, as a 45-year-old you can visit Soho in comfort. Maybe eat at Conran's Mezzo restaurant in Wardour Street, which was once the Marquee Club where the Rolling Stones and The Who played 30 years ago. In those days the concept "leman

grass" meant someone had smuggled their marijuana into the concert in an empty Jiffy squeezer. Now, you could afford to spend as much on a bottle of burgundy as you once did on a month's dope. Better still, you won't feel obliged to say "Oh, wow" all the time. Anarchy, like acne, is best reserved for gangly youths.

'Pop songs punctuate our lives, yanking us back in time'

Gone shopping with the lads

MEN, according to groundbreaking new research, think they are better at shopping than their wives. No surprises there. Men are better at everything. Only last year it was revealed that 90 per cent of men believe they are better-than-average drivers.

What is surprising is that the report took for granted the idea that men go shopping. Not so long ago, survey-takers would have been excited with the discovery that men actually shop at all. But the hot news in 1996 is that blokes shop faster than birds, and are better at finding bargains. This is manifestly true, and for very obvious reasons.

First of all it is about control



SIGN OF THE TIMES

by Giles Coren

of the shopping trolley. In male hands, a trolley is by no means a mere wire-meshed grocery receptacle on wheels. It is a vehicle of crowd-scattering rally potential. Only a real man can build up a head of steam past the dog food and dried fruit, and then lean out wide to bring the trolley round to a skid-stop at the processed cheese.

This is why you never see a man with a basket - a basket doesn't need a pilot. A real man will use a trolley to transport three onions and a packet of Silk Cut to the till.

At the helm of this vehicle, speed is all. To daily over the seven pence difference between Anchor and Lurpak would be like giving way to a BSM car at an intersection.

Which is why chaps go to the Harvey Nichols food market. "At least 40 per cent of our customers are single men shopping alone," says an observant female buyer at the Sloane Rangers' corner shop. "They come here because there is a cafe where they can have a coffee before embarking on the shopping, and a bar to celebrate afterwards with a beer." Men, eh?

"Men go out knowing exactly what they want, and they like to get the job over and done with quickly. The only place they stop to browse is over the wine and cigars." One thinks inevitably of Henry Higgins: why can't a woman be more like a man? Men are so honest, so thoroughly square...

cannot even buy a decent bottle of claret. Who could possibly argue that the fellow doesn't know a bargain when he sees one?

Perhaps men think they are better at finding bargains because the things they are required to buy are cheaper than the products offered to women. In a designer clothes shop a woman's shirt will inevitably cost 10 or 20 per cent more than its exact equivalent in the men's department. Designer cosmetics, which are expanding into the men's market, are typically priced below their identical equivalent in the ladies' range. Men, it is presumed, will bear only so much.

It is not surprising, then, that when a husband and wife arrive home with identical shopping, the fortunate fellow will have been charged less, and consider himself the more cunning consumer.

In truth, the instinct of the man is to be more extravagant - hence the huge cost of premium beer, pornographic magazines and Formula One racing. In this he follows a dictum of the founding father of the modern lad, John Ruskin: "There is no such thing as cheapness in the universe. Everything costs its own cost, and one of our best virtues is a just desire to pay it."

What the shopping statistics really show is that men are better than women at only one thing, and it is the most important skill in the modern world - answering surveys.

'Blokes shop faster and are better at finding bargains'

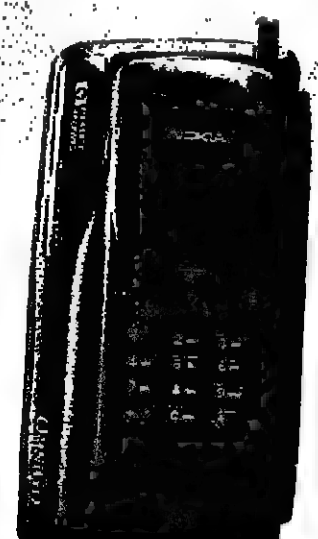
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Matthew Parris



Journalists behave like a pack of mad dogs, excited by their own barking as they tear a story apart

In public affairs, the pit canary and the waste-tip dog offer us warnings of different kinds. Let me explain.

Remember the pit canaries? Being more sensitive than human beings are to methane, these birds keel over at the first trace, giving miners time to escape. Pit canaries exist in other fields of endeavour too. Some politicians act as political pit canaries: they may lack a useful cynicism, but when they begin to stagger on their perches, we are alerted to the possibility — no more — of a bad smell.

The waste-tip dog is different. Rubbish is what these strays live and breathe, and their systems are proof against all but the strongest poisons. So if, on any rubbish dump, you see even the dogs gasping, you should wake up to the likelihood of serious toxicity. Canaries are the first to keel over, dogs the last.

On questions of balance and responsibility in newspapers, I ask you to count me with the dogs. This is not because I am a person of unusually low personal standards, but because of an ideological commitment to liberty. I believe the press should be free to print all manner of rubbish. I would even abolish the laws of libel. Short of war, we should accept no case for state censorship, whatever the circumstances. Please do not see this columnist therefore, as less than a robust — even reckless — champion of press freedom.

But I do think that British newspapers are going mad.

With each succeeding year it gets worse. We are running around like a pack of stray dogs. Something takes our interest, every single dog piles in, and we start barking at it.

For days or weeks we bark. For days or weeks nothing else, however important, can distract our attention. This is the news. This is the issue. There is no other news, there are no other issues, and nothing else matters. Aroused as much by our own and each other's noise as by the object of our transient interest, we nip and yap and howl and snarl ourselves into a kind of mad frenzy. We keep the British public awake and fighting all night.

Then, all at once and for no particular reason — just as with dogs in the night — the barking stops. A few hounds pause, perhaps for breath; a few others, sensing a diminution in noise, pause to reassess; the noise drops, the panic subsides, and a sense of calm and second thought develops spontaneously, rather than the rising hysteria did. Finally, as one or two stray voices bark on but with growing hesitation into the night, silence descends.

Some kind of internal

For a while there is no other news, nothing else matters. And it is getting worse

least editorial pressure concerning what I write. But like any working journalist I can sense the topic of the hour. The buzz envelops me too, and there are times when any other subject looks out of place. A few months ago it was Diana and Diana was all. A month ago it was Scott, and we wrote of nothing else. Whither Scott now? Two weeks ago it was Dunblane. Dunblane is still there, but hardly in the newspapers. Last week it was BSE. In a fortnight BSE will still be there, but hardly in the papers. I have now written five parliamentary sketches in about as many days about "mad cow" disease, and this afternoon I may feel constrained to write a sixth. But I reckon it may be the last.

For this waste-tip stray, at least, a quiet despair about the British press is growing. I do believe in a free market in information, and I wish to believe that from competition comes variety and choice. But sometimes it seems that having ten newspapers instead of one merely means ten voices screaming rather than one, all screaming — and perhaps more frenziedly — at the same thing.

Rather than wring hands, however, I will ask a practical question. Why must a paper have a "lead" story at all? Life surely, does not designate a "lead" topic each day — and an advantage front pages have over broadcasting is that print journalists do not have to either. Many American newspapers don't. So why do we? A total ban on lead stories might stop us behaving, as we have been all year, like a pack of epileptic Muppets.

Complex operations on children continued at Bristol Royal Infirmary despite a disastrous record

Most discussion of the National Health Service assumes that the medical quality of the service is beyond criticism and that the only question is one of funding. A story from Bristol casts doubt on that assumption.

Bristol, and the Bristol Royal Infirmary in particular, has always been regarded as the centre of medical excellence in the West Country. Now it has become apparent that in one department, cardiac surgery on infant children, the medical treatment has been gravely inadequate, and that many children have died as a result. Although the department has now been reformed, the Trust defends what happened, and the man apparently responsible is still the Trust's medical director.

Last Thursday evening, Channel 4 broadcast a special edition of *Dispatches*, which investigated the record of cardiac surgery on children at the Bristol Royal Infirmary in the first half of the 1990s. The allegation, which has already been widely reported in the West Country, is that two Bristol surgeons continued to operate on children, often very young children, in the period 1988-95, even though their clinical results were much worse than those of other leading hospitals performing the same procedures. These operations continued after concern had been expressed by their own anaesthetists, by the Royal College of Surgeons, by the professor of cardiac surgery at Bristol and eventually by the Department of Health itself. In addition, it is alleged that the parents of the children who died were in some cases given wrong information about the risks.

In the case of one infant, Daniel Willis, the surgeons performed a neonatal switch. Michaela Willis, the mother, noted in her diary at the time she had been told there was an 85 per cent survival rate in this operation. In fact there had at that time been nine previous neonatal switch operations performed at the hospital, in which

Why did they allow so many to die?

six of the babies had died, a 33 per cent survival rate. It may have been true that there was an 85 per cent survival rate taken in Britain as a whole. It was not true that there was a similar rate at the Royal Infirmary. Daniel Willis became the seventh baby to die from this procedure.

In the unit's annual report for 1989-90, alarming statistics were already being reported, showing that deaths in operations on babies under one year were twice the British average, and no doubt worse than that relative to the best centres. The consultant anaesthetist, Dr Stephen Bolsin, wrote a letter expressing his concern to Dr John Roylance, who was in charge of the hospital at the time, expressing his concern at the high mortality rate. He got no response from Dr Roylance, but was referred to the then director of cardiac services, Mr James Wisheart, who was one of the two surgeons carrying out these operations. Dr Bolsin was rebuffed for having written to Dr Roylance, and Mr Wisheart by his account made it clear to him that "this was not the way I should proceed in the future".

However, the Royal College of Surgeons did listen. In 1992 it reviewed and confirmed the data on fatalities, and warned the Department of Health. Perhaps the most authoritative quotation in the *Dispatches* report came from the President of the Royal College of Surgeons at the time, Sir Terence English. "When I reviewed the results from Bristol, it became apparent the mortality was disturbingly high. I communicated my concern to the

Department of Health and added, in conjunction with the new President of the Royal College of Surgeons, because by then I had demitted office, my own recommendation that Bristol should be de-designated." Yet as Dr Bolsin comments, "the operations continued and the children continued to die".

In 1994 a new investigation was made at the request of the hospital's Trust itself and the Department of Health. This was made by Gianni Angelini, the new professor of cardiac

parents an 80 per cent success rate, which had certainly not been the experience at this hospital. Professor Angelini and Dr Bolsin protested; the parents of course were not told either of the Royal Infirmary's high mortality record or that a special meeting at the hospital had been called to decide whether to go ahead. Even the Department of Health raised its anxieties with the Trust. Dr Bolsin was present at the meeting, but Professor Angelini was not invited and Dr Bolsin was overruled.

The Trust decided to go ahead: the operation was performed. Joshua died. Following a highly critical report on this operation, the senior of the two surgeons, Mr Wisheart, decided to give up operating on children altogether. Unfortunately, he did not even stick to that resolution. On May 1, 1995, he operated on an 18-month-old boy; the boy died. That was the very day that Dr Ash Pawada, a world-renowned surgeon, started work in Bristol. Dr Pawada has since performed 180 operations with only four deaths, and the Bristol statistics are now among the best in Britain.

For understandable reasons, Mr Dhasmana and Mr Wisheart would not defend themselves to *Dispatches*. Hugh Ross, the new chief executive of the United Bristol Health Trust, appointed in 1995, made such defence as could be made. It is not a good one. He argued that "with hindsight we can now see that not everything is as we would have wished". But this was not a question of hindsight.

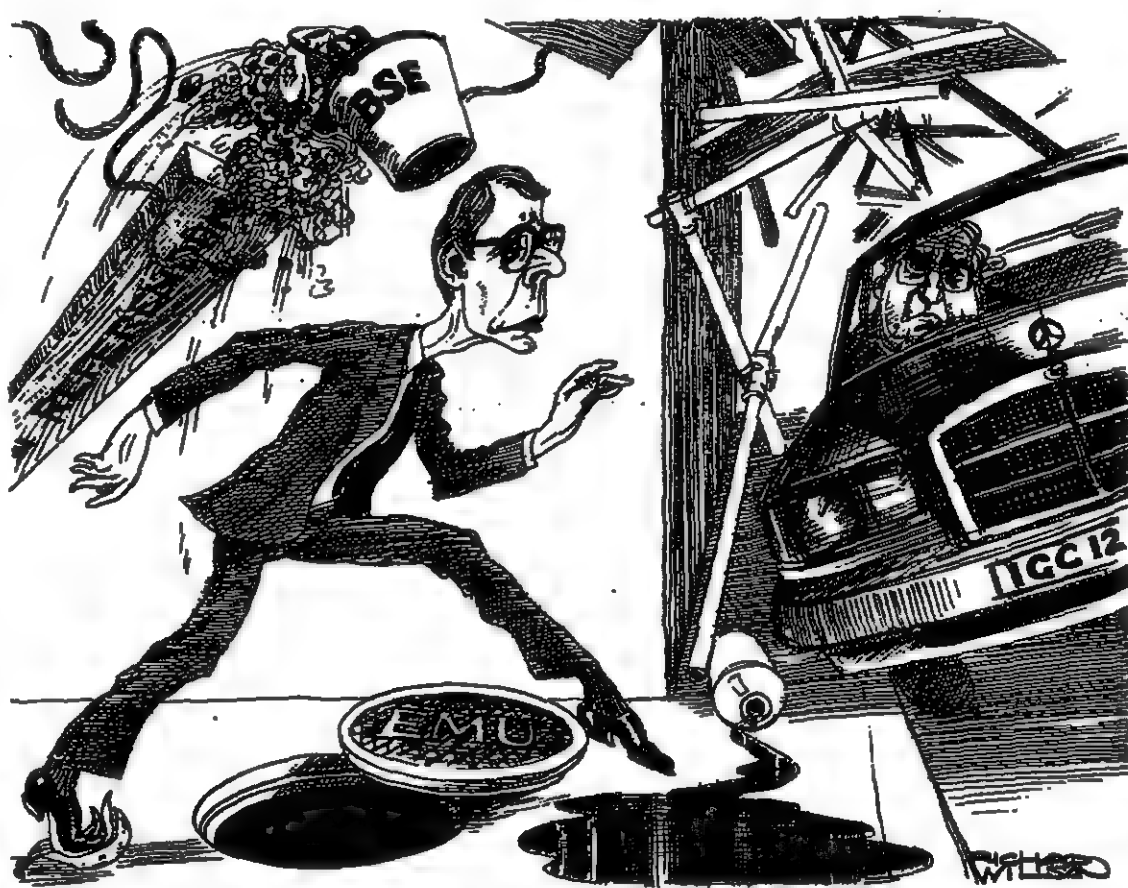
William Rees-Mogg

surgery at Bristol. He recommended that a new paediatric cardiac surgeon should be appointed, that the paediatric service should be moved to the children's hospital, and that the complex neonatal switch operations should be halted. The first two recommendations were accepted by the Trust and have since been carried into effect. "By mid 1994, the Bristol Royal Infirmary had stopped performing arterial switch operations because of its disastrous record. Nineteen out of 41 infant patients died."

Yet in December a further such operation was performed on Joshua Evans. Mr Dhasmana, the second of the two surgeons, this time quoted the

Beyond damage limitation

As the parties
limber up for the
election, Peter
Riddell wants
some answers



The Tories have at last settled on a political strategy. It isn't a bad one in the circumstances. The snag, of course, is the circumstances. In Harrogate on Saturday, John Major's case sounded coherent — a *pot pourri* of his commonsense conservatism — until you remembered what had been left out. Apart from a joke about spending his birthday at the Turin summit, there was no reference to Europe, and there was none at all to the arguments over a referendum on a single currency which so preoccupy the Cabinet. The beef panic was turned into an attack on Labour. Mr Major sounded like a company chairman presenting his business plan while barely acknowledging public criticisms of his managers and the collapse in his share price.

Still, Mr Major at least sounded as if he had a reason for wanting to remain in Downing Street. A consolidation strategy has been rejected. The Tory high command accepts that it has to offer a positive case for an unprecedented fifth term. The search that was attempted in the early Major years to find the distinctive essence of Majorism, to replace Thatcherism, has been abandoned after the presentational disasters of "back to basics" and the like.

Instead, there is a two-pronged approach: first, validating the re-election of the Tories in 1992 by pointing to the prosperity and tax cuts now coming through after the earlier "necessary" sacrifices, and second, presenting an optimistic message about the prospects for Britain as, in the dread phrase, "the enterprise centre of Europe" — provided we remain competitive. The emphasis is on welcoming change, to

counteract Labour's "time for a change" appeal. There is a lot of rather heavy talk, much liked by Michael Heseltine, about meeting challenges, hard work and prudence, and about how this is the only way that both lower taxes and improved public services can be afforded.

Most people may recognise the inevitability of increasing global competition, but that does not mean they accept the consequences in terms of redundancies, personal anxiety and social dislocation. That refusal gives force to Labour's campaign about economic insecurity. Mr Major acknowledged some of these worries with his proposals on law and order, parental choice in schools, expanding the role of GPs and assisting people to meet the costs of long-term residential care in old age.

The Tories are about to intensify

their warnings about what would be at risk under Labour. Ever since Tony Blair was elected Labour leader in July 1994, they have been unsure how to handle him. Ministers have veered, often in the same speech, between saying that Mr Blair is just a smiling face or Bambi (funne after his Clause Four victory), that Labour has no new policies (it already has stolen Tory clothes so why not vote for the real thing (confuses people) and that Labour has not really changed (not believed by voters).

Now, instead, a more sophisticated approach has been adopted: that Labour has changed its rhetoric but not its instincts. Tory strategists see a conflict between Labour's language

of aspiration and its specific policies: despite Gordon Brown's restraining hand, many Labour MPs believe public spending is the answer to most problems. Mr Blair may say he wants Britain to be competitive, but the Tories argue, he supports measures such as the social chapter, the minimum wage and increased burdens on business, which would harm competitiveness. Hence the Tories' eagerness to debate with Labour about the stakeholder society, rather than the Opposition's ground of competence and government drift.

By contrast, Labour is pursuing a risk-averse strategy: avoiding spending and tax commitments, and indeed not saying or doing anything which gives the Tories any ammunition. As Mr Blair stressed yesterday, his plan for a ballot of all Labour members on its draft manifesto is

intended to show that the whole party is committed to realistic policies.

The two main parties are like 18th-century armies, circling each other warily and engaging in ritual skirmishes in the form of Prime Minister's Questions. In view of their ghastly stridency each Tuesday and Thursday, is there any point in having a televised debate between the leaders during the election campaign? The mere suggestion of such an event was yesterday accepted with "alacrity" by Mr Blair, before cold water was poured on it by Brian Mawhinney.

As a democrat and a journalist, I suppose that I should be enthusiastic. But the American experience makes me cautious. There, the format is negotiated like the peace in Bosnia: will it be a single moderator, a panel of journalist questioners or a studio audience of "real" people? James Baker, who makes Dr Mawhinney seem cuddly, famously got the better of the Dukakis campaign to benefit George Bush in the 1988 debates. There are a few hilarious pages about the preparations in 1992 — the briefing of journalists during the debates, and the satellite link-ups to offer the right "spin" afterwards — in *All's Fair* by Mary Matalin and James Carville, then rival advisers and now married. The debates consume vast amounts of time, paralyse the campaigns, and the leaders become obsessed with avoiding trivial gaffes which will be blown up out of all proportion. All the candidates want is to avoid being regarded, rightly or not, as the loser.

In Britain, there would be a danger of a prickly, negative confrontation, as so often happens in the Commons, in which neither leader would appear as he is. This might be aggravated if one of the great figures of television were the moderator. Perhaps someone less politically involved but with unquestioned authority should preside. As Sir Richard Scott, let alone Presley Baxendale, would presumably not be acceptable to the Tories, how about that arbiter of public standards, Lord Nolan? His courteous persistence might embarrass the leaders into politeness, and possibly even candour. Someone has to force them to spell out the implications of their chosen strategies.

Miss fortune

JUST when it seemed things had reached rock bottom for the Duchess of York, she is being claimed as a friend by one of the world's barniest celebrities, Jackie Stallone, astrologer, women's mud-wrestling promoter and mother of Sylvester.

The two met in Qatar recently, when the Duchess took part in a bottom-achingly long desert horse race organised by the local Emir. Miss Stallone, 72, is the sort of woman who centuries ago would have roamed mad and warty across the land, dismissed as a raver. She has been rude about the Queen, and once claimed to be the Princess of Wales's favourite astrologer. A couple of years ago she told anyone who would listen that her son and the Princess were likely to become romantically linked.

The Duchess is a patron of Sly's Planet Hollywood hamburger restaurants, and his business partners, the actor Bruce Willis and his wife, the actress Demi Moore, had lunch at the Duchess's home three weeks ago.

Now, in an interview with an Australian magazine, Miss Stallone claims that when the Duchess was musing out loud in Qatar about slimming pills, she intervened with the suggestion she marry a rich sheikh.

"There are all these men dressed alike, all very rich and with no



La Stallone giving advice

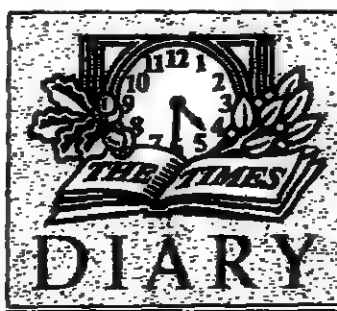
underwear," she advised the Duchess. "Perfect for a single girl." The Duchess's reaction is not recorded, but according to Miss Stallone the Duchess too is now a committed client of her fortune-telling services.

New Friends

WHEN Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Secretary, met Franz Fischler, the EU Agriculture Commissioner, in Brussels last week, he was among friends, thanks to his adroit adviser, George Osborne.

Fischler, a jovial Austrian, visited London in February for talks with Hogg. After lunch, however, he found himself at a loose end for the afternoon. Osborne, 24, suggested a visit to the Cézanne exhibition at the Tate. Fischler looked excited. Tickets, however, would be harder to come by than an EU cow-slaughtering grant.

A call was put through to the Department of National Heritage. No dice. Re-enter Osborne. Producing a Friends of the Tate card, he ventured that if he could get the Commissioner in as a guest on his card, his *chef de cabinet* could probably sneak in as well. So, taking the



chance, the three headed off. The plan was smoother than the *chef de cabinet's* hair grease. While Osborne signed Fischler in as his guest, Mr le Chef dined past the distracted security staff and into the show. The Austrians were said to be highly impressed.

At the launch of the Conservative 2000 Foundation last year, it was stressed that this was much more than a support group for John Redwood. Issue 2 of *Foundation News*, however, suggests otherwise. In four pages, Redwood is mentioned eight times, his speeches are quoted at length, his book receives a healthy plug, 13 speaking engagements are listed in full, and there is an invitation to a fund-

raising dinner to be addressed by, you guessed it, John Redwood.

Chelsea girl

YESTERDAY saw the end of Chelsea Clinton's eight-day official visit to Europe. Throughout her trip, the First Daughter was accompanied by her mother, Hillary.

That, at least, is one way to interpret Mrs Clinton's sweep through the continent with her daughter. At the start of their presidency, the Clintons guarded Chelsea's privacy, refusing to let her be used for cheap political ends. These are desperate times for the embattled Mrs Clinton, however, so she played the Chelsea card.

Miss Clinton, 16, covered her head for the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, managed to look alert during a hot tour of Athens, and exchanged repartee with soldiers in Ankara. Her father's girl, she even went into Clintonesque sincere mode when thanking a GI in a Bosnian hospital for his commitment to global freedom (he was, in fact, a hernia patient). The travelling press was so entranced that Whitewater was barely mentioned. We may be seeing more of candidate Chelsea.

Telephone operators at Tory Central Office are likely to have sore fingers this morning after the Labour Party's April Fool advertisement on page six of this newspaper. By publishing the telephone number and address of Central Office and a coupon to claim a £2,000 refund from the Tories, however, Labour is taking its revenge cold. For it was during the last election that the Tories first added the Labour Party headquarters number to the end of a party



"April Fool"

broadcast. The telephone operators at Walworth Road have never forgotten it.

Best bishop

HAS April Foolery gripped The Church of England? Newspaper too? Usually it is a pamphlet for the stripe-mugs-and-cardigans tendency, but this week's front page carries the Baroque headline "Play Fantasy Bishops and Win £25,000". First select your bishop and his team, which will include suffragan bishops, archdeacons and the diocesan secretary, from any diocese you care to choose.

Points are awarded on criteria ranging from "how many new vicarages have been built" (with extra points for *en suite* facilities) to "how many clergy in distress the archdeacons have visited" and "how many clergy went over to Rome after the vote to admit women to the priesthood". Naty episcopal dressing also wins points.

The £25,000 prize is said to have been donated by a Lottery-winning suffragan bishop.

P.H.S

HUGH FALKUS

**PROFESSOR SIR
CHARLES OATLEY**



He is survived by his wife Enid, whom he married in 1930, and by their two sons.

LADY LABOUCHERE

Rachel Labouchere was twice married, first in 1930 to Malcolm MacGregor (marriage dissolved in 1940) and then in 1943 to Sir George, who survives her.

There were no children of either marriage.

Appointments in the Forces

THE FRENCH RIVIERA ITS CALMER ASPECTS

ON THIS DAY

April 1, 1911

It will be a great pity if Cannes should ever try to imitate her gayer, less reputable cousin for Cannes is already as gay as any reasonable human being can desire, and her charm lies precisely in the proximity of that choice gaiety to the roomy peace of her villas and her pine-woods...

23

Hill gives
no ground
in his
drive for
the top

27

Forward
planning
reaps
dividends
at Repton

28

Bears
prove
a soft
touch
for Wigan

29

National
theatre
provides
grand
finale

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY APRIL 1 1996



Beckham stoops to conquer, driving home Manchester United's winner at Villa Park yesterday with Phelan, struggling with a thigh injury, watching helplessly in his wake. Photograph: Darren Walsh

Gullit bows to Cantona in classic semi-final at Villa Park

United head for Wembley

Chelsea 1
Manchester United 2

By ROY HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE FA Cup Final at Wembley on May 11 is sure to be some kind of a climax to this season — any game between Manchester United and Liverpool is always that — but this time the two giants of Lancashire are both in the frame for a League and Cup double.

Yet it is hard to imagine any contest being more pulsating, living closer to the edge of nerve or emotional spirit, than the semi-final at Villa Park yesterday, an almost frightening 90 minutes in which United came from behind to defeat brave Chelsea. It cast aside the caution and mean-spiritedness that has cowed semi-finals down the years, and blessed by wonderful performances from the imported talents of Ruud Gullit and Eric Cantona, raised the tactical and technical merit of the old English game on a pitch that resembled seaside mud-flats. It was awe-inspiring.

The storyline tells you there were three goals. In addition, the woodwork was rattled three times and both sides made dramatic goalline clearances — one of them, for heaven's sake, by Cantona. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, admitted he has never seen his Frenchman so far back in "free" play. He also admitted he has not witnessed such a stirring semi-final.

His adversary, Glenn Hoddle, rightly pointed out that Chelsea suffered a cruel "twist of fate". Indeed, there were more than mere tears there was the tearing of flesh that took both full backs, Clarke and Phelan, from Chelsea, rendering the home side completely broken-

winged at a crucial stage of the second half. Phelan pulled a muscle, running upfield with no one within yards, yet persuaded his manager and physio to give him ten minutes more. They turned out to be crucial minutes, because United were a goal down when Phelan fell and a goal up by the time he finally conceded to the pain and the handicap of a damaged left thigh.

Was it unwise for him to be allowed to continue? "You have to go by what the player tells you," Hoddle said. "We had already lost one full back, Clarke, with a very nasty ligament strain, and when Phelan did come off, I had to use Gavin Peacock at left back, a role he had never played in his life."

Belying the desert conditions, the capricious bounce on a grassless pitch, United, depleted by the loss of Bruce, a late withdrawal with a thigh injury, as well as Fallister and Irwin, felt they had no option but to attack. In the fourth minute, Sharpe and Gigg combined and Beckham struck the right-hand post with



Flying Fowler 24
Batting Bolton 25

Hitchcock unmoved, except for the shock in his expression.

Then, gradually, Gullit took charge. He did not dictate from midfield — he was far more ubiquitous, now running alongside Hughes at centre forward, now surging down the right flank, now operating almost at inside left — and, from his inspiration, first Clarke lobbed Schmeichel, but narrowly over the top, then Duberry made United's crossbar quiver with a shot that bounced to safety.

Thus, after 35 minutes, when Chelsea took the lead, it was earned.

The goal owed much to the bustling perseverance of Hughes, who broke down the left before, with cool foresight, picking out Gullit standing remarkably, all alone six yards from goal; Gullit's header seemed so very easy.

Yet Gullit was not to pace himself, with his 33 years, to lasting effect and when he tired, so did Chelsea. Then Cantona began to spread influence. Just before half-time, with a sumptuous volley from 27 yards, he comprehensively beat Hitchcock, but again the ball thumped against wood, bouncing clear off the base of a post.

Shortly after half-time, Phelan's thigh muscle twanged and, within five minutes, United levelled. Philip Neville, just 19, showed wonderful composure and great reading of the game by attacking behind Phelan. He slipped the ball through the legs of Spencer, swept it towards the far post, and after Cantona won it in the air, there was Andy Cole stretching to score, at last, a poacher's goal. That was the 55th minute; by 59 minutes, it was 2-1. Burley, having had a most

industrious and worthy afternoon as the midfield anchor for Chelsea, tried a hitch-kick back to his goalkeeper, but mis-hit it woefully. Beckham, again part of Manchester's youth, again composed under pressure, took one touch to control the ball and one to guide it elegantly beyond the already diving Hitchcock.

After that came what Ferguson decreed to be the turning point of the whole match. Schmeichel, having been saved by Cantona's headed clearance from a volley from Spencer, faced the odds almost alone when Gullit, Spencer and Wise combined down the left. Wise, 12 yards out, apparently had the goal at his mercy and he did nothing wrong. He shot quite strongly, but Schmeichel spread that enormous Danish frame in front of him, deflecting the ball, as he often does, with his legs. "World class, definitely world class," Ferguson enthused.

The United manager felt that the sound temperament of his team won the day and, yes, there were those in the crowd becoming overheated, screaming for sendings off. Keane could indeed have gone for slapping the face of Wise, but defending him, Ferguson stated: "Roy [Keane] is unfortunate, he gets booked for his first foul. Sparkie [Hughes] had his usual 20." It was also hard to disagree with Ferguson's final assessment that "Dennis Wise would start a row in an empty house", a reference to the little Chelsea captain's apparent determination after half-time to be the provocateur — but such things should leave no lasting impression. Instead, remember the contest, the goals and the high skill.

CHelsea (3-4-2-1): K Hitchcock — M Duberry, D Lee (sub: P Furlong, Glenn), A Myers — S Clarke (sub: E Johnson, 30, G Burley, G Wise, T Phelan (sub: G Peacock, 64) — J Spencer, R Gullit — M Hughes.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — P Neville, G Neville, D May, I Sharpe — D Boothroy, R Keane, N Butt, R Gigg — E Cantona — A Cole.
Referee: S Lodge

THE WAY TO WEMBLEY

SEMI-FINAL	SEMI-FINAL
Chelsea (1st Party 2-1)	Aston Villa (2nd Party 3-0)
SOUTH ROUND	SOUTH ROUND
Manchester United (2-1)	Leeds (2-1)
FIFTH ROUND	FIFTH ROUND
Manchester United (2-1)	Manchester United (2-1)
FOURTH ROUND	FOURTH ROUND
Manchester United (2-1)	Manchester United (2-1)
THIRD ROUND	THIRD ROUND
Manchester United (2-1)	Manchester United (2-1)
Second round: Chelsea 4, Stoke 2, Gillingham 2-1	Second round: Chelsea 4, Stoke 2, Gillingham 2-1

"If only I
could pay off all
my debts in
one go..."

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BBC's Aintree des res needs a lick of paint

The difference between the old and the new can rarely have been so apparent. It was volume. The Grand National has been run since 1839 and covered live by the BBC for the past 37 years. Des Lynam barely raised his voice above a murmur — "Good day to you from Aintree and what a weekend of sport ahead of us." We were off.

The Stones Super League is four days old. On Friday, it arrived, kicking and screaming into the world, with Eddie Hemmings on Sky Sports doing most of the screaming — "Join us for the biggest night in rugby league history... join us as Paris Saint-Germain kick off a new era in rugby league history... join us as we start looking for the new heroes of the Super League." Whatever the future holds for the Super League, one thing is already certain. It is going to be loud.

We shall return to rugby league another day, giving the "new era" time to iron out a few hiccups evident on Friday night. They ranged from the occasional loss of live action to slow-motion replays, to the rather more unusual problem of the referee being unable to hear the half-time hooter. Still, our first glimpse of rugby league's version of the third umpire — video replays of disputed tries — was impressive. It was called for at the right time, and the right decisions were subsequently made.

Racing's version of the third umpire had a rather trickier time of things on Saturday afternoon, marred by the BBC's otherwise excellent technical coverage of the National. The sound seems to get better every year and the pictures from the car-mounted cameras were quite superb, but when Rough Quest veered



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

across the path of Encore Un Peu, the only person cheering was Gerald Hubbard. The Times private handicapper. He had tipped the first two home in the right order.

In the BBC's mobile control unit, there must have been something close to panic. The finishing post may mark the end of the race for the horses, but for the corporation's back-room team, it marks the beginning of one of the quickest edits in the sporting year. In something under two minutes, as Peter O'Sullivan warms down and Lynam interviews the victorious jockey-

owner-trainer, the editors put together the rerun of the race. It is the one opportunity they get to use pictures from all the cameras distributed around the Aintree course — hidden in fences, buried in ditches or raised on towers. Normally, it is great television.

On Saturday, however, we learnt that what they definitely do not need during those hectic few minutes is a stewards' inquiry. Somewhere in its digitised, computerised control room, the BBC had all the right pictures from all the right angles. The challenge was finding them and then,

with Richard Pitman and Peter Scudamore also engaged on the rerun, finding someone to talk over them knowledgeably.

What we ended up with was a different replay released roughly every three minutes, and O'Sullivan and Lynam sounding increasingly doubtful about the result. The wait, particularly for the vital head-on and side-on replays, seemed interminable, but eventually, Pitman popped up to announce that, in his mind, there was "no doubt the result would stand". Three minutes and another replay later, he was back — "The more you see it, the more difficult it becomes."

No doubt Keith Mackenzie, the producer, will have a new contingency plan marked "stewards' inquiry" in place for next year, but I hope that he also gives some thought to the build-up, which did not

seem quite up to the high standard of recent years.

Rather too much seemed to be riding on a repeat of the Des Lynam-Jenny Pym Show. Richard Donwood was the first jockey to be interviewed. Sue Barker had been dispatched to the Pym yard for a lesson in horse anatomy and, within the hour, Pitman and Lynam were at it again. "She's a very nice lady that Sue," Pitman began. "As are you," Lynam countered. They were off.

Rather more importantly, betting was seriously underplayed. The National Lottery has confirmed us as a nation of gamblers, and John McCrick and Channel 4 Racing have proved that the betting ring makes excellent television. You do not necessarily have to do it the McCrick way, but, on the punter's big day out, you definitely have to do it.

Streamlined Scot takes challenging position

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN MONTE VEDIA BEACH

THERE were echoes of Oakmont 1994 as The Players' Championship approached its conclusion here yesterday. Though the rain and dark skies that were dominant in Jacksonville, Florida, last week were in marked contrast to the steaming heat of a Pennsylvania midsummer's day nearly 21 months ago, two of the men who fought out that play-off for the US Open were casting their appreciable shadows over the inexperienced 54-hole leaders in an event that is described as the fifth most important of the golfing year.

Els won that US Open, his first major championship, beating Colin Montgomerie and Loren Roberts over the

confident as I have ever been," he had said on the eve of this, his second tournament of the year. "I am very happy with what is going on. There is nothing wrong with my game at all. It is as good as it ever was, if not better."

His play in his first three rounds bore out his high opinion of his golf. Scores of 71, 69 and 66 took him to joint fifth with Els. "A 66 will do nicely tomorrow," he said after 36 holes. After 54 holes, he thought a bit longer and said: "I am not sure that will be good enough. Perhaps a 65 would be better."

"I have not been surprised at the way I have played here. I suppose I surpassed myself in Dubai to be 18 under in my first tournament, but that has given me confidence to come here and do well. I have played the hard holes well and the easy holes not so well. I've had only one birdie in two rounds on the par fives and that is where I have lost out. That is disappointing when you can reach six of them in two. I must get more birdies on the long holes tomorrow."

Montgomerie was in three bunkers on Saturday, two on one hole, yet, such is his skill, that, on the 4th, he hit a full nine-iron to one foot for a birdie and, on the 18th, where his drive ended in one bunker and his recovery in a greenside bunker, he splashed out to 12 inches. These were the strokes of a man at the height of his powers.

"I didn't really come close to a bogey," Montgomerie said. "It is always nice to play a course of this quality without making a mistake. That is when you win tournaments. It is not the amount of birdies you make that counts. It is the number of mistakes you don't make."

Els played himself into contention in the third round with a 65, seven under par. Taking advantage of the dry conditions, he birdied five of the first nine holes.

"The course was there for the taking," Els said. It was easily his best round of the year in the United States.



Davies launches her drive at the 10th during a third round that kept her in contention at the Nabisco Dinah Shore

Davies keeps eagle eye on title

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN MISSION HILLS

AWESOME. It is the only word for Laura Davies when she achieves the well-nigh impossible. Mind you, it took the biggest-hitting, most extravagantly talented woman golfer in the world that she is to achieve one of her ultimate ambitions — to hit the 18th green here in two and to sink the putt for an eagle three.

The problem was that Davies, the world No 1, did it in the third round of the Nabisco Dinah Shore tournament, not as the championship-winning finale to one of the titles that she covets most. The outrageous eagle simply put Davies in position to win, ensuring that she started the final round yesterday, two shots behind Patty Sheehan and Brandie Burton, the leaders.

The two American Solheim

Cup players were on 210, six under par, a shot ahead of Martha Nause, the former du Maurier Classic winner. Davies was joined on 212 by Karrie Webb, of Australia, who leads the United States money-list. Annika Sorenstam, the Swede who dominated the 1995 season, and Meg Mallon, Amy Frawther and Tracy Hanson, three Americans.

"I've got a real fighter's chance now," Davies said, "though I really wanted to play the 18th like that in the last round, to win the title. It's my favourite hole. It really means something — it's the 72nd hole in the Dinah Shore and it's not been very kind to me. I've never won on it, but I've lost on it."

As far as can be determined, Mickey Wright, rated by many as the best woman golfer of all time, and Davies are the only women to reach

the 526-yard 18th in two. Most do not even try. There is water down the left and the green, which is surrounded by the stuff, is reached by a bridge.

On Saturday, Davies went out in 38 and looked irritable and ill at ease. The back nine here are notoriously difficult, but Sheehan came home in 31, with five birdies in the six holes from the turn, and Davies played it in four under. She changed her putting style — "I put my hand further down the grip and stood more over the ball" — and had three birdies in a row from the 12th. She bogeyed the short 17th, but enjoyed the 18th at least as much as the crowd did.

Nancy Lopez once took nine here, on Saturday, Sorenstam took seven. A television cameraman who did not know his etiquette disturbed the Swede at the top of her backswing and she duffed

her pitch into the water. Davies had no such problems.

She hit a monstrous drive more than 300 yards down the fairway and had 209 yards to the pin, which was in a position designed to give players hitting wedges the heebie-jeebies. Davies, ever the gambler, reached for her three-iron knowing that it was at the very limit of her range. "Anything but a perfect strike and it was wet," she grinned.

She hit it to ten feet and there was only one place for the putt to go. There is nothing wet about La Davies's approach to golf.

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS (US unless stated): 210: P Sheehan 71, 72, 67; B Burton 70, 67, 69; M Nause 69, 73, 70; 212: A Frawther 71, 73, 68; L Davies 69, 72, 70; K Webb 69, 72, 70; M Mallon 71, 70, 71; T Hanson 68, 69, 74; A Sorenstam 69, 72, 73; 213: S Liles 68, 72, 71; E K Robinson 71, 72, 71; R Jones 72, 67, 75; J Meeker 70, 70, 74; H Stacy 68, 71, 74; 215: K Toole 71, 74, 70; B Brown 70, 70, 73; 216: J Pritchett 71, 71, 73; S Swayer 72, 71, 73; T Verdery 67, 72, 77.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Davis profits from cautious approach

STEVE DAVIS set up the chance to secure his ninth Benson and Hedges Irish Masters snooker title by cautiously building a 4-3 first-session lead over Darren Morgan in the best-of-17-frame final at Goffs, Co Kildare, yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Davis, who had taken 44 hours to defeat Ken Doherty 6-4 in the semi-finals on Saturday, was again reluctant to take any risks.

Breaks of 42 and 40 gave Davis the first frame and he took the second with a brown-to-black clearance. Morgan accounted for the third with a run of 94, and levelled at 2-2. However, he then missed a tricky pink that allowed Davis to regain the advantage at 3-2. The closing two frames of the session were shared.

Mike Hallett benefited from an error by Dave Palmer, the referee, involving a spotted ball during a 3-2 victory over Brian Morgan in the first round of the British Open at Plymouth yesterday.

New Zealand win

RUGBY UNION: New Zealand won the the Cathay Pacific/Hongkong Bank sevens for the third successive year yesterday, beating Fiji, the sevens specialists, 19-17 in the final. Christian Cullen was the man of the tournament, becoming the first player to score more than 100 points in the competition and creating a spectacular try for Waikato Masirewa that set New Zealand on their way to victory.

Cullen also scored three times for New Zealand in their 42-19 defeat of England in the semi-finals. Nevertheless, the English were satisfied with their performance. "New Zealand are a professional outfit, they train together so much, they have pulled people out of the Super 12 tournament for this," Tim Rodber, the Northampton forward, said.

Boardman triumphs

CYCLING: Chris Boardman, right, whose career was endangered when he crashed out of the opening time-trial stage in the Tour de France last year, became the first Briton to win the French Criterium International race yesterday. Boardman beat Michele Coppi, of Italy, by five seconds over the race's three stages, with Mauro Gianetti, of Switzerland, third.



Navy snatch late victory

RUGBY UNION: A late penalty goal from in front of the posts by Eyre, their full back, enabled the Navy to claim the Willis Corron Trophy with a 9-6 victory over the Army at Twickenham. In a game of contrasting styles that never really hinted at a try, Eyre and Knowles had earlier kicked two penalty goals apiece in front of the 18,500 crowd — the biggest for the fixture since 1948.

Whitaker qualifies

EQUESTRIANISM: John Whitaker, twice a winner, yesterday ensured his place in the final of the Volvo World Cup in Paris next month. Whitaker's third place on Welham in the penultimate qualifier earned him 15 points to take him to eighth in the European standings. Although he was faster than Ludger Beerbaum, the winner, in the three-horse jump-off, Whitaker, from Yorkshire, had two fences down.

Olympic pair

GYMNASTICS: Lee McDermott, 22, from Sutton, in Surrey, and Dominic Brindle, 20, from Leeds, will represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in July. They took the first and second places at the trials at Lillesham National Sports Centre. McDermott dominated the trial to win the competition by a comfortable 1.35 marks over Brindle, while Brindle beat Andrew Atherton, of Wigan, by 0.050 of a mark.

Lara's century turns tide

CRICKET: Brian Lara, right, transformed the third one-day match between West Indies and New Zealand, in Port of Spain, Trinidad, yesterday, with his eighth century in limited-overs internationals. Lara scored an undefeated 146 from 131 balls as West Indies eventually cruised to victory by five wickets, with 4.2 overs to spare. They lead the five-match series 2-1.



Little fails test

RUGBY UNION: Walter Little, the New Zealand centre, has been suspended for two matches after testing positive for a banned substance. Little tested positive for propoxyphene, which is contained in a painkiller, after Waikato's Super 12 match against Natal in Durban on March 17. A disciplinary panel, announcing the ban yesterday, said that it was satisfied that it had been an unintentional offence.

Ratcliffe dominates

CANOEING: Paul Ratcliffe, 22, from Tydesley, Manchester, swept the board at the Olympic slalom kayak trials at Grandval, Perthshire, at the weekend. For the women, Lynn Simpson, the world No 1, shared the honours with Rachel Crossbee to qualify for the team.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM: Men: P Ratcliffe (Tydesley), S Pearce (Horsburgh) Women: R Crossbee, L Simpson (both Nottingham)

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (Spm)	Last snow
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	80	190 good	valued	slushy	sun 3 29/3
		(Good sunny spring skiing; some slush low down)			
AUSTRIA					
Obertauern	20	80 good	valued	good	line 5 30/3
		(Excellent skiing on new snow; cool temperatures helping)			
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	70	290 good	spring	good	sun 5 26/3
		(Good spring skiing; some worn spots in late afternoon)			
Les Arcs	50	185 fair	heavy	slushy	line 9 27/3
		(Good at altitude; home runs very slushy)			
Avoriaz	110	140 good	valued	warm	sun -2 29/3
		(Pistes hard-packed in places; lowest pistes icy/warm)			
Chamonix	25	250 fair	valued	closed	sun 8 26/3
		(Spring conditions developing; icy first thing)			
Val Thorens	50	200 good	valued	good	line -9 27/3
		(Plenty of good skiing; north slopes excellent)			
SWITZERLAND					
Verbier	10	170 good	spring	slush	line 3 27/3
		(Spring conditions; plenty of good skiing available)			
Wengen	10	40 good	spring	warm	sun -5 30/3
		(Excellent spring snow available; lowest runs very patchy)			

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

Skidpan green angers contenders

FROM MEL WEBB
IN MADEIRA

THE tortuously difficult 18th green at Santa da Serra became the rock upon which the victory hopes of a quartet of hapless golfers were dashed in the final round of the Madeira Island Open yesterday.

The green — sloping, two-tiered, lightning fast and possessed of a pronounced nap — was a difficult enough proposition without the added hazard of a wicked pin placement, on the crown of the upper level.

put the pin in that position should never work for the Tour again. The greens were far too nappy to put the pin where it was; this has made a mockery of golf. I'm absolutely gutted."

Strong words, but justified ones. There seemed no place on the green that would give players a half-decent chance of two-putting for par. Three putts were almost a triumph on a day on which the home hole yielded only six birdies.

Sjoland needed a birdie to

put himself on nine under par, which would have put him into a play-off against Jarmo Sandelin, who won with a final round of 69 and a total of 279, a shot ahead of Paul Affleck. Sumeson, who also needed a birdie for nine under, missed from two feet and watched agape as his ball rolled off the front of the green.

Russell and Smyth both did the same to finish with double bogey sixes and joint third place alongside David Carter, Daniel Chopra and Peter

Mitchell. Russell barely set his ball in motion from eight feet for his par. It missed; his next putt was from 45 feet. Smyth had a first putt from ten feet and a second from 50.

"Quite clearly, it is a very tough pin position," David Probyn, the tournament director, who did not select the position, said. "Whether it's unfair is an entirely subjective matter."

Sandelin, meanwhile, was blessing his good fortune. Stephen McAllister, one of his playing partners, finished in 26th place, but was probably as responsible for Sandelin's victory as the Swede himself.

McAllister had exactly the same line to the pin as Sandelin, but was five feet outside him. When the Scot's ball missed by a whisker and rolled to the front apron, he had unwittingly coached Sandelin on the correct line and pace. Sandelin knew exactly what he had to do to two-putt and take the £50,000 first prize. Unlike most of the rest, he made it look easy.

Graf maintains her impressive form

STEFFI GRAF, the No 1 seed, cruised to her fifth Lipton tennis championship at Key Biscayne, Florida with a summary 6-4, 6-3 dismissal of Chanda Rubin, of the United States, in the final. It was Graf's third consecutive Lipton title — she also won in 1987 and 1988 — and her second success in as many tournaments this year.

"I think that's a pretty unique feeling, winning a tournament so many times," Graf said. "Playing the best players and beating them, sometimes it probably gives you a better high afterwards, so sure, I think I would have had probably a better feeling if I won it in a tougher match."

Rubin, 20, the No 6 seed, kept Graf on court for just 55 minutes and never looked capable of threatening her. Indeed, Graf's tennis was almost perfect in the first set, a single double fault being her only unforced error, and nearly as good in the second.

"I was a little bit nervous," Rubin said. Nevertheless, her ranking will rise to a career high of No 7 in the world for reaching the final, despite the manner of her defeat.

In the men's event, Goran Ivanisevic maintained his brilliant form of 1996 with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 semi-final victory over Pete Sampras, the No 2 seed. Andre Agassi, the No 3 seed and defending champion, also reached the final, with a 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Arnaud Boetsch, of France.

It had appeared that Sampras and Agassi were on a collision course for a third successive meeting in the Lipton final as he surged to a 6-2, 1-0 lead, but then rain forced a delay of 48 minutes and Ivanisevic was much improved on the restart.

"Everybody was saying it would be another repeat of last year and I said 'OK, good luck you guys, but it's not going to happen'," Ivanisevic said.



Sandelin: good fortune

FINAL SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated:
279: J Sandelin (Ire) 72, 67, 71, 69; 280: P Affleck (Ire) 72, 69, 75, 69; 281: D Carter 71, 75, 68, 67; D Smyth 73, 71, 68, 69; P Mitchell 72, 66, 73, 70; D J Russell 73, 69, 69, 70; D Chopra (Sri) 69, 66, 70, 70; 282: J Pymen 71, 74, 71, 66; C Sumeson 71, 70, 71; D Bormeo (Sri) 74, 67, 70, 71; P Gading 69, 71, 70, 72; 283: J Van de Venne (N) 69, 71, 74, 69; P Fowler (Aus) 72, 72, 72, 67; P Spaland (Sri) 72, 68, 72, 71; T Gough (Ire) 70, 70, 71, 72; J Garcia (Sri) 70, 70, 68, 74; D Howell 71, 69, 69, 74; A O'Grady 72, 66, 71, 75; 284: B Mas (Aus) 73, 72, 70, 69; B Russell 71, 74, 72, 68; S Jones (Ire) 72, 68, 73, 70; 285: P Phillips 72, 74, 69, 70; J Perno 70, 71, 71, 77; A Sheehane 72, 69, 71, 73; J Gomez (Arg) 71, 73, 68, 72; 286: S Watson 70, 73, 73, 70; F Roca (Sri) 73, 70, 72, 69.

2004/05/01

Late goals end courageous challenge as Liverpool's collective talent sees them through to Cup Final

Fowler and McAteer break Villa's heart

Aston Villa 0
Liverpool 3

By DAVID MILLER

EASY? Not a bit of it. Aston Villa, a week after lifting the Coca-Cola Cup, stormingly gave Liverpool a physical marathon of an FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday, the result of which was never certain until Robbie Fowler and Jason McAteer scored twice in the final few minutes.

Few could complain, however, that Liverpool, the most collectively accomplished English team and unusually having only one "foreigner" in the Irishman, McAteer, should contest the final against Manchester United. Fowler once again pressed his case for inclusion in the England team and Roy Evans, Liverpool's modest and as yet little acclaimed manager, more than deserves this success.

Perversely, Villa's fate, when standing on the verge of a second Wembley final, against the same



opponents they controversially defeated the last time they were there 39 years ago, turned on the competitive instinct of Gareth Southgate. England may summon him for this quality during the European championship. Yesterday, his determination to get back on the field, when injured, contributed to Fowler's first goal, so psychologically valuable, after a quarter of an hour.

Southgate had temporarily left the field minutes before hand to receive treatment on a damaged knee. He should probably have been immediately replaced by Staunton, as he would be eight minutes later. Southgate, instead, ran back on to the field, briefly, with the knee bandaged just as Jamie Redknapp — starting a first-team match for the first time since being injured playing for England against Switzerland in November — took a free kick from the right.

Momentarily, Southgate was mentally separated from the game's momentum. As the ball



Fowler's exquisitely struck shot produces a second goal for Liverpool to dampen the spirited resistance of Aston Villa in the FA Cup semi-final at Old Trafford yesterday

dipped towards the left-hand corner of the goal area, Fowler stole in from the man who should have been marking him to dive shin-high and head the ball wide of Bosnich low into the corner of the net. On such tiny miscalculations can the history of the game revolve. From that moment, for the remaining half-hour of the first half, Villa were consistently the

more dangerous side, in spite of the fact that Liverpool's near-flawless inter-passing gave them more possession and expended less energy. And whenever Villa were out on the training ground, so calm was their training even within the tempestuous nature of a semi-final.

Villa, however, were not to be intimidated and when, finally, they had lost by an unfairly wide

margin, it was characteristic of this club that its supporters gave them a defiant, loyal ovation.

The difference between last Sunday and this, of course, is that Leeds United have not the quality that is bred at Anfield. So much of the time now Villa were bursting their lungs merely for the privilege of having possession of the ball. Some of their followers may have

television rerun, however, makes it evident that McManaman had played the ball away before Taylor fell.

Townsend and his men dismissed the incident and four times might have drawn level but for James, who either side of the half-hour saved in succession from Yorke, Milosevic and Draper and then, with Milosevic in possession only a stride or two from the goal, somehow covered all the angles so that the Serb could not turn to get a shot at goal.

McManaman, who had been comparatively quiet in the first half, began to open out approaching the hour and one of his mazy runs all but brought another goal as Jones, overlapping on the left, crossed high into a disorganised penalty area. Back at the other end, Draper's cross to Milosevic, on the far post, brought a downward header that Ehiogbo glanced on the half-volley. A goal seemed certain yet somehow James, contorting himself on the ground on the line, managed to keep the ball out. This moment probably marked the point at which Villa's hopes began to drift.

With a little over ten minutes remaining came the most perfect incident of the match, never mind that it brought no goal. Barnes, receiving the ball 30 yards out, paused as though suddenly remembering something he had meant to do before leaving home and, without a glance, struck a left-foot shot that flew like an arrow to rebound from a post. There was no visible power, the motion as exquisite as a Gower cover drive.

Draper still had the energy to summon another run and a shot in desperation that Scales deflected away. With Villa vainly extending their last gasp, Liverpool caught them on the counter-attack and Redknapp's free kick from the left dropped beyond the defence straight to Fowler and his left-foot drive in off a post was little inferior to that of Barnes's shortly beforehand. McAteer's nonchalantly struck third goal at the conclusion of McManaman's breakthrough run signalled Villa's reluctant surrender.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M. Bosnich — U. Ehiogbo, P. McManaman, G. Southgate (sub: S. Staunton, 21min), G. Charles, J. Taylor, A. Townsend, M. Draper, J. Wright — S. Milosevic (sub: T. Johnson, 78), D. Yorke. LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): J. Barnes — M. Wright, J. Scales, N. Redknapp — J. McAteer, J. Redmond, S. McManaman, J. Barnes, R. Jones — S. Collymore (sub: I. Rush, 85), R. Fowler. Referee: P. Dutton

Derby making a virtue out of being ordinary

Derby County 3
Stoke City 1

By KETH PIKE

IN A season in which so much of the football played outside the top division has hovered between the mundane and the mindless, no club has prospered more than Derby County. If converting a £3 million loss into a minor trading profit and gaining approval for a new stadium were not enough, Derby have also discovered that a distinctly moderate team can get within reach of the biggest prize of all: promotion. Somebody, somewhere, must love them.

If they do go up from the Endleigh Insurance League first division, Derby will look back with particular fondness on this result. Like Leicester City, Millwall and Birmingham City before them, they had reached the heights only to be struck down by a severe case of vertigo, and defeat on Saturday against Stoke City, their fellow hopefuls, might have confirmed the condition as terminal. They won, deservedly enough, but not without reinforcing the view that, this year, mediocrity may be a



Smith: pleased with win



passport to the FA Carling Premiership.

Not that Jim Smith, the Derby manager, could find much fault with their performance after his team had taken only two points from the previous 12. "It was a relief to come back from 1-0 down against a team with such a good defensive record," he said. "It sends us on our way again — it is another game struck off."

True enough, Derby played with admirable purpose in the second half and, thanks largely to the introduction of Dean Snurridge in attack, a cutting edge. Yet it could neither erase from the memory a woefully inept opening 45 minutes, nor explain how a team of such obvious limitations could go 20 league games unbeaten and, barely a month ago, establish a seven-point lead at the top of the table. Can they really be among the best that the first division has to offer?

Two moments adequately summed up the paucity of Derby's first-half display. They opened with a wild shot into the crowd by Wilkins from a wonderful position, their only strike at goal, and closed with the same player putting a corner straight behind. Had the Dutchman been wearing clogs, he could not have failed more abjectly, yet his performance was merely symptomatic of the team's: a lack of quality and composure that no amount of effort could make up for.

Trailing to Sheron's firm header from Simon Strickland's cross, Derby simply reverted to a 4-3-3 formation, upped the pace (if that was possible), and let Dean Snurridge, the younger of the two Birmingham-born brothers, who were in opposition for the first time, do his stuff.

His poacher's goal brought equality seven minutes into the second half. Sigurdsson's error and Darryl Powell's header gave Derby the lead five minutes later, and Strickland made certain of the points with a header 12 minutes from time.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): R. Hoad — D. Vales, I. Simeon (sub: D. Snurridge, 60min), D. Walsall — I. Carver, S. Fynn, D. Powell, C. Powell — R. Wilkins — A. Ward (sub: C. Simpson, 87), M. Caballero. STOKES CITY (4-4-2): M. Pughoe — R. Watson, L. Sparrow, I. Carson, N. Sandford — K. Hoen, C. Beeson, N. Elghom, G. Potter (sub: M. Canham, 74), M. Sheen, S. Strickland. Referee: S. Matheson

McCoist cashes in with Rangers at odds

W ere it not for the pandemonium, it might have been monotonous. Twice, Paul Gascoigne took corners on the left and sent the ball to the far post, twice it was knocked back, and twice Ally McCoist was waiting to finish. By completing a hat-trick with those two goals in the last seven minutes, he overhauled a 2-1 deficit to give Rangers the lead against Raith Rovers.

In essence, the game at Stark's Park on Saturday ended there. The penalty from Gordon Durie in stoppage time, that made the final score 4-2, was virtually an encore, but McCoist's largesse in letting a team-mate take that kick produced consternation. Could his greed actually have been sated at last? To the relief of his many admirers, McCoist was later to explain that he acted purely from mercenary motives.

The forward has a £50 wage that Durie will amass more goals than Gascoigne

this season, and he was simply supervising his investment. McCoist can anticipate a betting coup, but Rangers overcame greater odds still to win against Raith. Their doggedness triumphed, in particular, over their own impoverished performance.

By scoring from those corners and two penalties, Walter Smith's team dispensed with the need to fashion a goal in open play. In extremity, it might be said that the surface sabotaged skill. There was so much sand spread on the field that the nearby bench at Kirkcaldy appeared to be spreading into Stark's Park. All the same, the players cannot entirely be excused for letting underfoot conditions get on top of them.

It was Raith who demonstrated that ability may force even a pitch such as this to cooperate. The angles and accuracy that they found in the passing movement that allowed Peter Duffield to score the opener were dis-

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

guished. Thereafter, however, error and indiscretion predominated as unnecessary shows brought two penalties, one allowing the visitors to equalise, the other restoring Raith's lead.

Winning, however, is Rangers' profession, and they are not to be diverted from it even on afternoons such as this, when every part of the team is malfunctioning. Defeat would have given Celtic the chance to cut Rangers' lead in the Bell's Scottish League premier division to two points by

beating Aberdeen at Celtic Park this evening.

As it is, Celtic must succeed tonight simply to be five points behind with five matches remaining. Included in their squad is Jorge Cadete, the former Sporting Lisbon forward whose contentious transfer was at last concluded on Saturday morning. He is not eligible for the Tennent's Scottish Cup semi-final with Rangers next Sunday.

Even in the league, Cadete's arrival may be of little immediate assistance to Celtic, who need, above all, the help of other clubs. While they have little real hope of receiving it, Raith, even in defeat, did demonstrate that it is possible to disrupt Rangers. The visitors may have been sucked into the sands of Stark's Park, but there were other reasons why they found progress so difficult.

Jimmy Thomson, the Raith manager, produced an audacious solution to the problem of Gascoigne. Instead of ask-

ing some ruffian to mark the Englishman, he gave the task to a winger. Admittedly, Tony Rougier, a Trinidadian, is not the willowy type. At 1st lb, he has, on occasion, played centre half for his country. Nonetheless, he is, at heart, a deft player.

There were firm challenges from him, but Gascoigne was rarely manhandled as he produced one of his least effective performances. Instead, Rougier thwarted him through anticipation and even, at times, forced Gascoigne to try to block runs of his own. Gascoigne did eventually devise the barrage that finally breached Raith, but it came only after his adversary, injured, had been replaced.

Noting Rougier's display, a few premier division clubs will have been encouraged to believe that they too can vex Rangers. It is just a question of finding, somewhere on their books, a burly six-footer with a dancer's feet.

Stevenage remain on course for title

By WALTER GAMMIE

STEVENAGE BOROUGH steadied their nerves at the head of the Vauxhall Conference on Saturday by coming through an awkward away trip to Altrincham with a 2-0 victory that kept them four points clear of Woking with a month in hand.

Woking moved into second place by displacing Huddersford Town, who went down 2-0 at Kingfield. Clive Walker brought the home contingent of the 3,194 crowd to its feet with a stunning second goal that he crashed in with a first-time strike from 30 yards.

Walker, in sight of a possible return to the Football League on the eve of his 39th birthday, added a second as Woking safeguarded their unbeaten home record in impressive style. Andrew Ellis scored their other goal.

No sooner have Woking seen off one of the pretenders in what was their fifth successive win, than they must take on another next Saturday in Macclesfield Town — 2-1 winners at Telford thanks to an 89th-minute goal by Marc Coates. They must then go to Broadhall Way on Easter Monday to meet Stevenage in a match that will surely have a decisive bearing on the outcome of the title race.

The largest crowd of the day was at Nene Park, where Rushden and Diamonds drew 3-3 in anticipation of a victory that would have virtually assured their rise to the Conference.

After Carl Alford, their £85,000 signing from Kettering Town, had marked his debut with a goal, Halesowen Town spoiled the party by coming back to snatch a 2-1 victory. Rushden's only challengers for the Beazer Homes League championship, they are now three points behind, but have played two more matches. Whoever takes the title, it will be the last under the banner of Beazer Homes, which has announced that it is not going to renew its sponsorship.

Hayes, having been given the approval of the Conference, are steaming towards the Icis League title after a 4-0 victory over Chertsey Town. St Albans, Enfield and Yerrill Town remain in hot pursuit, all winning on Saturday.

Optimism offers Brighton's best hope of escaping drop

Brighton 1
Rotherham United 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

BRIGHTON will avoid relegation to the Endleigh Insurance League third division and all their problems behind the scenes will be solved. April Fool! Despite an enterprising performance against Rotherham United and hopeful noises from their club president, Brighton are still heading for the drop with still no definite news of where they will play next season.

On Saturday, a failure to convert chances and an inspired goalkeeping display by Matthew Clarke, the Rotherham captain, meant that supporters at the crumbling Goldstone Ground, blighted as it is by the mirage of a new stadium, have still seen their team win only four times this season. At least the entertainment on the pitch kept their attention away from the directors' box for once.

"I won't give up till the last kick," Jimmy Case, the Brighton manager, said. "We're looking to stay up, but even if we are down with three games to go, we will try to provide a game of football for the supporters, like we did today. The supporters are paramount and I know they enjoyed the game."

His team began brightly, even confidently. Most of the players probably consider themselves better than their league placing and one or two looked keen to prove it. Zeke Rowe, on loan from Chelsea, took the eye with an

energetic display, but Clarke, saving from Wilkins and Munday, gave notice of things to come before Rotherham took the lead against the run of play. Berry robbed Johnson and turned the ball inside for Goater, who stunned the ball over Rust into an empty net.

Dean Wilkins equalised before half-time with a perfectly-flighted free kick, high past Clarke's left hand, of the type that has become his trademark. Wilkins has exasperated Goldstone regulars in the past, but, on Saturday, his left foot, described by his more famous (and balded) brother, Ray, as the finest outside the FA Carling Premiership, was behind Brighton's best moments, forcing saves from Clarke and setting up chances for others with precise passes or pinpoint crosses and corners. Yet, for all their pressure, Brighton could not find a winner: relegation form, in other words, although Case saw the positive side.

"We all know we needed three points, but it is pleasing to play well," he said. "When I went to shake hands with Archie and John [Gemmell and McGovern, joint-managers of Rotherham], they said they didn't know how they had got away with it. Half the time, the Premiership is not as good as that. True, but, sadly for Brighton, the quality of the third division may be of more relevance before long."

BRIGHTON (4-3-3): N. Rust — S. Mayall, R. Johnson, G. Hooton, I. Chapman — D. Munday, G. Parris, D. Wilkins — C. Marshall, Z. Rowe, S. Sheen. ROTHERHAM UNITED (4-3-3): M. Clarke — S. Smith, P. Bladon, N. Moore, P. Hays — G. Bowyer — T. Berry, N. Johnson, A. Hooton (sub: M. Piro, 75min) — A. Hayward, S. Jones. Referee: P. Taylor.

Taylor keeps dignity intact as Wolverhampton prosper

Wolverhampton Wdrs 3
Watford 0

By PAT GIBSON

IT SHOULD have been a moment for Graham Taylor to savour. Steve Froggatt, the former England Under-21 international whom he signed for Wolverhampton Wanderers from Aston Villa for £1 million, picked up the ball on the left after 33 minutes, cut into the middle and hit a sweeping shot that squirmed off the goalkeeper's fingers and into the net.

Only Taylor is not the manager of Wolverhampton any more. As Molineux acclaimed the first goal of the season by an exciting talent whose rehabilitation is one of the main reasons why they could yet reach the first division play-offs, Taylor could do no more than offer a wry smile at the vagaries of football life.

Taylor knows more about the subject than most. Four-and-a-half months after walking out of Molineux because he felt that the baggage that he was carrying around with him as a failed England manager was having an adverse effect on the club, he was back as general manager of a Watford side that seems doomed to relegation.

He carried the burden well. The crowd responded warmly when he took his seat on the touchline with a wave to all four sides of the stadium and then fell quiet as Watford proceeded to outplay Wolverhampton with a brand of football that belied their

imperilled position. Then, Froggatt changed the atmosphere.

His appearances under Taylor had been limited by an ankle injury that threatened his career, followed by an infection that endangered his life, but now he has given Wolverhampton a sense of urgency that Mark McGhee, their new manager, admits could not have come at a better time.

Eight minutes after Froggatt's goal, Osborn found himself with time and space to fire home another screamer from more than 30 yards and, when he repeated the feat nine minutes into the second half, Watford were a beaten side and Wolverhampton were eyeing what Taylor calls "the Holy Grail".

Even McGhee had written off their play-off chances after they lost away to Grimsby Town, but since then they have won three games in a row and now he said: "Who knows? We could win this division yet! It's as much to do with what other sides have done as our own efforts, but things have conspired to keep us in it and it will be a great shame if we did not take advantage."

Taylor, for one, will not begrudge them if they do. "I was very pleased with the reception I got," he said, maintaining his dignity to the end, "and I am sure that this season or next the Holy Grail will be theirs."

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (3-5-2): M. Stewart — E. Young, N. England (sub: M. Vokas, 55min), D. Richards — J. Smith, S. Connor (sub: D. Ferguson, 30), A. Thompson, S. Osborn, S. Froggatt — D. Goodman, S. Ball. WATFORD (3-5-2): K. Miller — R. Page, K. Allen, D. Ludden — D. Buxley, A. Hession (sub: S. Palmer, G. Povey, C. Ramage — J. Morales (sub: D. Connolly, 45, sub: D. White, 65 mins), K. Dean. Referee: A. Louch.

Ministry's decision faces legal challenge



Brian Clarke says anglers feel commercial salmon interests are getting favoured treatment

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) is no-body's favourite department just now. The beef crisis is simply the latest issue to focus attention on perceived conflicts of interest between MAFF's role in managing the wishes of the commercial food lobby and its responsibility to the public at large.

Many issues exist that seem to reflect such conflicts. Some of them involve environmentalists and conservationists, not excluding anglers, as a report in *The Times*, on the damage that the farmed signal crayfish is doing in fresh waters, recently illustrated.

One just coming to a head is the long-running battle over salmon licences and the balance that the ministry is striking between the interests of the commercial salmon netters, on the one hand, and those of the environment and individual salmon anglers, on the other.

The Salmon and Trout Association (S and TA) is so incensed by the ministry's latest decision that it is seeking a judicial review of it — an unprecedented step. The S and TA believes that the ministry is deliberately increasing licence fees for anglers so that it can

hold commercial netting licences down — and that this may be illegal.

The problem has its origins in the collapse of salmon stocks. Possible reasons include cyclical changes in sea temperatures and salinity — about

which, if true, there is little that puny man can do. Pollution and habitat degradation in rivers are likely to be factors in some places. Over-exploitation by high seas netmen means that fewer fish return to the countries of their birth.

Indiscriminate exploitation of salmon off our own coasts by net fisheries may be making fatal and, as yet, unidentified inroads into the stocks on specific rivers.

The National Rivers Authority (NRA), which formally becomes absorbed into the new Environment Agency today, has long acknowledged the decline. It has sought to ease matters at a local level by introducing millions of young farmed salmon to the wild, by tagging individual salmon and monitoring their movements; by clearing up spawning reefs and the rest. This year, the NRA puts salmon conservation on a formal, national basis by introducing a management plan covering the whole of England and Wales.

It is all long-term, labour-intensive work and it costs money. The NRA's fisheries group, which carries out the work, depends largely on MAFF funds. The ministry has been reducing these funds each year — from £13.4 million in 1991-92 to £7.5 million this year and £6.5 million next.

One way that the NRA has sought to make up the loss has been by reducing head count. Indeed, there are concerns, among other things, about its ability in future to meet its fisheries obligations. The NRA

has also sought to increase income. Together, commercial salmon netmen and salmon anglers pay just 11 per cent of the cost of the work of salmon fisheries. How much more could be taken and on the basis of what kind of split?

As a first measure, a flat licence charge of £45-a-year was imposed on salmon anglers. This licence is not a permission to fish; it is a form of taxation that has to be paid just to assemble a rod by the water. All other costs, including those charged by owners of fisheries, have to be paid by the angler, in addition.

The study of netting licences, which are permissions to fish, was completed last year. It had the effect of highlighting what had long been known — that 700 commercial licence-holders take more salmon in England and Wales than all anglers put together: 56 per cent of the total catch by one measure, around 70 per cent by another. Yet the netmen were contributing just 20 per cent of licence income, anglers 80 per cent.

Last autumn, the NRA's proposals were published. The angler's rod licence would go up from £45 to £55 — and eventually to £75. The maximum charge for a commercial

net — £800, regardless of the number of salmon caught — would be increased by £250. Increases on other nets would be lower, in some cases as small as a few pounds.

At the same time, some important principles were proposed: that, in future, each group should pay according to the benefit it received from the NRA's work, as reflected in catches; that the differentials should be shrunk and that licences should, over time, be levied on a fair and consistent basis.

Furore resulted. The NRA pointed to the average rate of increases — around 60 per cent. Anglers pointed out that the hike in rod licence fees actually increased the differential between the two groups.

After harsh words on both sides, the NRA's figures went to MAFF for approval. The ministry recently announced its decision. Increases proposed for anglers would be accepted in full. Increases proposed for many commercial netmen would be halved. Licences for nets catching hundreds of salmon a year would go up by £120-a-year, at most. This while anglers who catch a handful of fish a year are being urged, by the NRA itself, to return their fish to the water for the sake of the species, while every net-caught salmon is, by definition, being killed for sale.

It is not only the £10 increase that has so incensed the S and TA. MAFF is already seeking ways of raising a further £2 million a year by imposing new charges on rod-fishery owners; charges that will inevitably be passed on to anglers.

□ Brian Clarke's fishing column appears on the first Monday of each month.

Falkus obituary, page 19

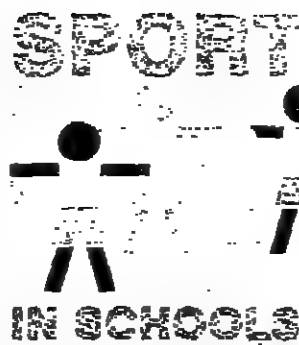
Thompson's production line making net gains

By Stuart Jones

ROGER THOMPSON has had to modify his ideal. He set out to build "a factory of Davis Cup players". fit, perhaps, to conquer the world. Instead, he has redefined his boundaries and, in establishing Repton as the school with the best tennis players, merely conquered the country.

The process did not begin immediately he was appointed as the master in charge two decades ago. His ambitious plan to run a programme throughout the year was rejected until David Jewel was appointed headmaster of the Derbyshire school in 1979. "To me, he was a jewel," Thompson said. Permission was granted for a scheme that, within a year, transformed Repton from "nothing" to the second best school in England behind Millfield. "I knew we could do that because the standard was desperately low," he said. Sixteen years later, he does not consider it to be appreciably higher.

His anger was barely concealed as he revealed the widespread lack of initiative. "There are three other schools doing these programmes now," he said. "There needs to be 50 or 60. It is pathetic." He is opposed on two fronts, by



public apathy and by parental concern. "Tim Henman [the nation's No 1] is probably our best [home-grown] prospect since Buster Mottram 20 years ago. Yet, if you went onto the streets of Derby, they wouldn't have a clue who he is. The concept of tennis is still Wimbledon, grass and summer.

"Some parents were looking for this kind of scheme, but others consider it undesirable to concentrate too much on one sport. To succeed, though, you have to be so selfish as to be highly unusual. Also, masters who know much about tennis are relatively few."

Thompson, 50, does not pretend to be an expert himself. He did captain Derbyshire, however, and, as a regular visitor to tournaments around the country, he can clearly spot talent. His first



Repton's tennis squad of Marc Powell, left, Adrian Barnes and Jamie Drummond

three recruits were from Bristol, Bolton and Bakewell. Matthew Dix, 14, Nigel Beedham and Duncan Ashworth, both 16, won the Youll Cup, the public schools championship that Repton had never held, and finished as runners-up in the Glanvill Cup, the national tournament, in 1980.

In the past 15 years, Repton has regained the Youll Cup 11 times and held the Glanvill

Cup on nine occasions. Thompson appreciates the financial support given to him by Wilson, the only leading company to respond to his requests for sponsorship. Wilson's representative was Tony Pickard, later to coach Stefan Edberg and Petr Korda and to captain the Great Britain Davis Cup team. "I said I would like to produce a factory of Davis Cup players," Thomp-

son said. "He told me if I produced one player in ten years, it would be a miracle. I thought he was being unduly pessimistic, but as it turned out, he was quite right."

A couple of old boys have featured in the competition, but Thompson admits that Dermot Sweeney and Mark Choy, who represented Zambia and Singapore, respectively, "would not have been

anywhere near getting into the British team."

Repton's coaches have been of notable quality. They have included Keith Reynolds, now with the Lawn Tennis Association, Ashley Broomhead, Andrew Jarrett, Leighton Alfred, who works with Miles MacLagan, Steve Heron and, for the past two years, Nick Fulwood.

Thompson estimates that his present group of pupils could be the best for four years. Adrian Barnes, 16, has already played for Britain and Jamie Drummond and Marc Powell recently beat the top Millfield doubles pair. None of them, however, is committed to a future in the game.

The three prodigies opted to go to university in the United States. "There was nowhere for them to go here, although centres are being set up this year at Loughborough, Bath, Stirling and Cardiff," Thompson said.

Thompson has not yet forsaken his own ideal. "I want to establish a place where this operation could continue but alongside a full-time squad who didn't have to pursue academic work and the facilities could also be used by local schools within 40 miles," he said. "Repton is perhaps too limited a market."

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McCullough: points victory

Rough Quest delivers telling late challenge to give trainer fitting reward for resilience

National theatre provides stage for Casey's skills

By JULIAN MUSCAT

IT would have been worth paying more than a penny for the thoughts of Terry Casey as Rough Quest, the winner of the Aintree Grand National at Aintree on Saturday, returned home to a rapturous reception yesterday in the heart of stockbroker country outside Dorking, in Surrey.

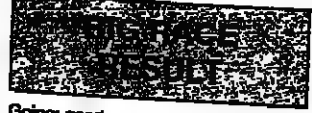
Just over two years ago Casey's life had ground to a shuddering halt. A career with horses was all he ever wanted but all it delivered was a financial predicament so precarious that his brother, a successful businessman, advised him to cut his losses and run.

Casey cut his losses but declined to quit. The man with no family connections in racing relinquished his licence in February 1994 but the lure of the thoroughbred was to prove too strong. Two months later, among advisers for tipping lines and vacancies for stable lads in the trade press, Casey, 50, noticed an opening at Andrew Waters's 700-acre residence.

Thus was forged the alliance that plotted a magnificent victory as Rough Quest swept past Encore Un Peu to become the first successful Grand National favourite since Gritter obliged punters 14 years ago.

In the event, both Casey and Waters were spared of the winning feeling by a 15-minute stewards' inquiry into Rough Quest's runaway passage up the run-in. On a personal level, any intervention by the stewards would have amounted to a savage reversal for Casey. The fates have hardly been kind to the man from Donegal, on Ireland's north-west coast.

"I bought Malt House Stables in Lambourn in 1992 and



Going good
3.00 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap; grade 1; £142,534; 4m 4f)
ROUGH QUEST (9) b. Crisp Course - Our Quest (A. Waters) 10-10-7 M.A. Fitzgerald (5-1) 1st, The Times Private Handicapper's top rating.
1. Encore Un Peu (ch. g. Niles) - Creme Caramel (V. Niles) 9-10-0 D. Bridgwater (14-1)
2. Superior Finish (b. g. Oats) - Emancipated (Durwood) 8-1
3. Sir Peter Lely (b. g. Tenebris) - Picture (John Doyle Construction Ltd) 9-10-0 Mr C. Borne (25-1)
4. ALSO RAN: 9 Son Of War (4), Young Hutter (5), 10 Life Of A Lord (Party Hides) (1), 12 Deep Bramble (2), Wyke Hild (1), 14 Lusty Light, 20 Rust Never Sleeps (2), 22 Breeze (1), 23 Vicomte De Valmont (2), 24 Antoinette (1), 25 Over The Top (1), 26 Breeze (1), 27 The Stream, 28 Riverside Boy, 100 Brokenhearted (1), 101 Fawcett (1), 200 Sun Metal, 27 ran, NR: Plastic Spacings (14), 118 abt, 141, 41, T Casey at Dorking, 141, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

died when she choked over lunch 21 years ago. "I left the room for ten minutes and when I came back she was already dead," he said amid the celebrations yesterday.

Casey's training career saw him flit from the Curragh to Towcester and Banbury before he bought his own stable in Lambourn four years ago. "Lambourn is a pretty tough place," he said. "I have many friends in the area but I won't be going there for my holidays. I'm not a great one for socialising with owners. I'm better in a situation where someone else worries about paying the bills."

That is the arrangement with Waters. Ironically, Casey's being installed at Waters's Henfold House Stables owes everything to the building trade. Waters is a director of the family's Waters Building Group, a Croydon-based conglomerate employing more than 1,500 people. He was better placed than most to understand Casey's predicament and recalled yesterday how he selected his man from a host of applicants.

"More than 100 people responded to my advert," Waters said. "Terry had the necessary expertise and experience of training good horses. He has a lovely manner but what really counted were the excellent references I got when I inquired about him. He has a very good reputation for looking after his horses."

Doubtless those words were spoken with Rough Quest in mind. The ten-year-old has been plagued by a constitution so fragile that he often appeared ungenuine in the heat of a close finish. The fault was diagnosed as a muscle enzyme disorder and Rough Quest's diet was subsequently loaded with carbohydrates and vitamin E at the expense of the

high-protein intake traditional to racehorses.

If that change helped make the horse, the part played by Mick Fitzgerald was equally important. He runs through the jockey's veins. So much so that Fitzgerald castigated himself yesterday for launching Rough Quest too soon - even though he waited until 200 yards from the winning post. "I wanted to challenge up the inside of Encore Un Peu but David Bridgwater closed the door on me," he said. "I had to switch to the outside, which is where the two horses came close together."

It was an act of pure theatre on Fitzgerald's part, although the jockey could so easily have listened to the closing stages from the inside of an ambulance. After his second in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, Casey initially announced Rough Quest a non-runner at Aintree, prompting Fitzgerald, 25, to accept the ride on Bavard Dieu.

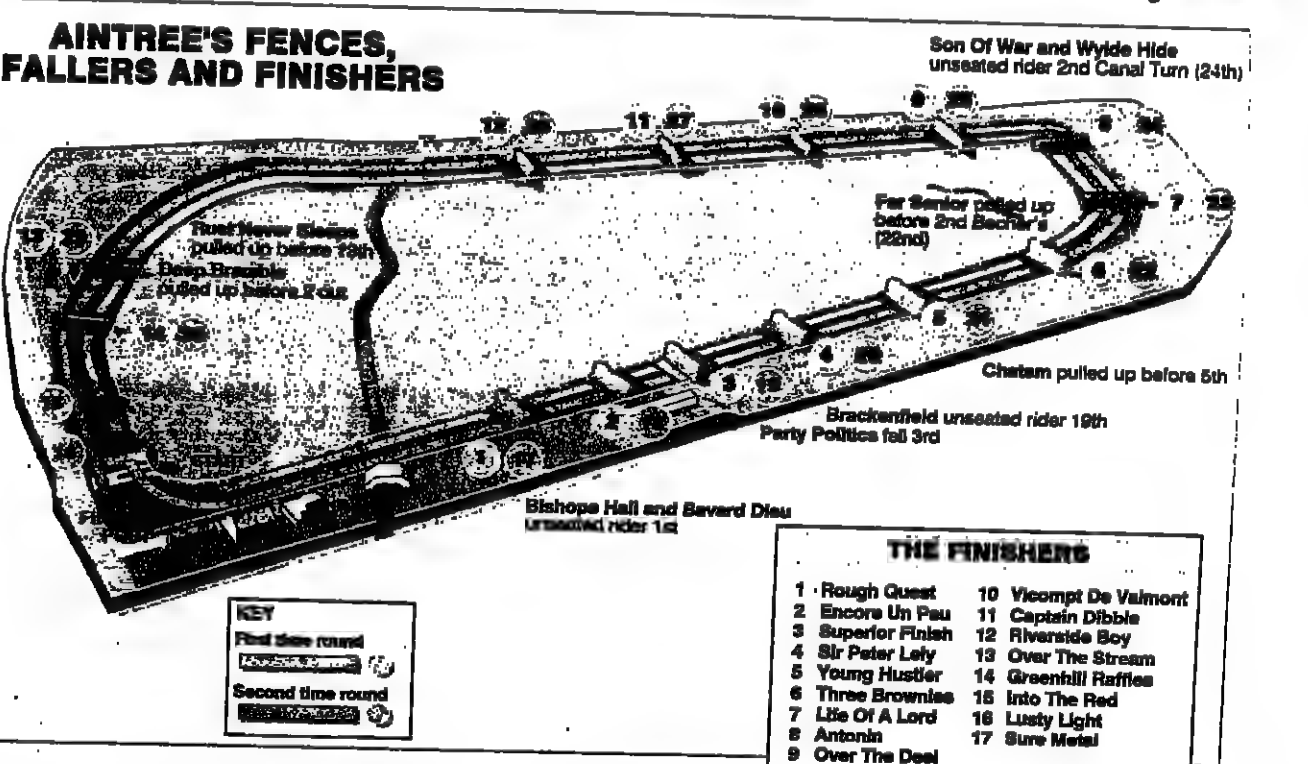
Fortunately for the Irishman, Nick Gaslee, who trains Bavard Dieu, facilitated the switch when Rough Quest re-entered the equation. Last

RICHARD EVANS

Map: KIPPANOUR (240 Exeter)
Next best: Super Tactics (410 Exeter)



The winner, Rough Quest, centre, and second Encore Un Peu take the first of the Grand National's 30 fences together



THE FINISHERS
1. Rough Quest 10. Vicomte De Valmont
2. Encore Un Peu 11. Captain Dibble
3. Superior Finish 12. Riverside Boy
4. Sir Peter Lely 13. Over The Stream
5. Young Hutter 14. Greenhill Raffles
6. Three Breezes 15. Into The Ring
7. Life Of A Lord 16. Lusty Light
8. Antoinette 17. Sure Metal
9. Over The Top



Waters, left, and Casey celebrate Rough Quest's return home to Dorking yesterday

year's winning jockey, Jason Titley, deputised and suffered two fractured ribs when Bavard Dieu fell at the first fence. He is expected to be out of action for two weeks.

As Titley lay injured, Fitzgerald enjoyed the ride of a lifetime aboard Rough Quest. Then, as he absorbed the cheers on his return to the winner's enclosure came details of the stewards' inquiry. Those 15 minutes felt like an eternity," he said yesterday. "When I watched the replay I thought David (Bridgwater) made such a meal of it that he should have won an Oscar. Luckily, the stewards didn't buy it."

The day ended on a sour note when Rust Never Sleeps was put down after fracturing a shoulder and Deep Bramble suffered a career-threatening injury. Party Politics, the winner four years ago and runner-up last year, fell at the third fence and may contest the Scottish equivalent before his retirement.

Ireland's formidable challenge again came up empty but this was a victory for the Emerald Isle in all but name. As Casey said on his return home yesterday: "I left the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool before six o'clock this morning and there were Irishmen still celebrating in the bar."

2.10 GAROLO 2m 3f 110yd (13 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

2.10 TORBAY AXMINSTER AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HURDLE (11v 12; £2,084; 2m 3f 110yd) (13 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

2.40 MOORLAND AXMINSTER JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4v 5; £2,084; 2m 2f 110yd) (10 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

2.40 MOORLAND AXMINSTER JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4v 5; £2,084; 2m 2f 110yd) (10 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

3.40 AXMINSTER WEAVERS MARES ONLY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (1v 12; £2,084; 2m 2f 110yd) (10 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

3.40 AXMINSTER WEAVERS MARES ONLY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (1v 12; £2,084; 2m 2f 110yd) (10 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

4.10 ALL WOOD AXMINSTER HANDICAP CHASE (23v 24; 2m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
3.10 RIVER LUSSE 5.10 Whirly

4.10 ALL WOOD AXMINSTER HANDICAP CHASE (23v 24; 2m 2f 110yd) (15 runners)
2.40 KIPPANOUR 4.10 Pate The Parson
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Court of Appeal

Discovery discouraged on appeal

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Gardian and Another

Before Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe

Judgment March 14

Save in exceptional cases, an appellant in judicial review proceedings was not entitled to discovery of material which was not before the court below unless there was new evidence that could not have been made available at first instance by reasonable diligence.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an application for discovery of ministerial briefing papers on appeal by Robert and Besta Gardian against the decision by Mr Justice Harrison on May 4, 1995 of their application for judicial review of the Home Secretary's refusal to grant them indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom outside the Stateless Persons (Immigration Rules) 1989, HC 388.

Mr Ian MacDonald, QC and Mr Robin Spencer, the appellants; Mr Neil Garnham for the Secretary of State.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said the appellants were Polish nationals in their late twenties who had come to the UK in August 1989 to see Mrs Gardian's grandfather who had fought for the British Army in World War II. The grandfather

had suffered a stroke in October 1989 and the appellants had remained with him to look after him.

In August 1990 their application for indefinite leave to remain was refused, but they were granted exceptional leave to remain to look after the grandfather, who died in December 1990.

Following the birth of a son to Mrs Gardian in June 1991, the couple had again applied for indefinite leave. The application had been refused, but on appeal, an adjudicator had recommended that the Secretary of State exercise his discretion in their favour outside the rules. However, the parliamentary under-secretary of state had decided in April 1993 that he was not satisfied the circumstances justified granting exceptional leave to remain.

The couple then applied for judicial review, and withdrew the application when the Home Office indicated it would reconsider their case. Two immigration officers had made an unannounced visit to the couple's home and both urged the minister to exercise discretion in the couple's favour.

The case was reviewed by the Minister of State, Mr Charles Wardle, who concluded that to do so would undermine the government's general policy on immigration which, inter alia, was to restrict severely the numbers coming to live permanently or work in the UK. When he conducted his review, the minister had before

him a summary prepared by civil servants, but not the written minutes of the two immigration officers' recommendations.

In June 1994 the Gardians again sought judicial review. At a preliminary hearing before Mr Justice Laws they unsuccessfully sought discovery of the briefing papers that had been before the minister. Mr Justice Laws dismissed the application for judicial review, describing the failure to put the officers' minutes before the minister as regrettable but not unfair.

On appeal, Mr MacDonald had again applied for discovery of the briefing papers, saying that without them the Gardians could not effectively challenge the decision of Mr Justice Harrison.

It was an abuse of the process of the Court of Appeal to seek to use an appeal as a means of re-trying an application on different and possibly better evidence. *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Momin Ali* [1984] 1 WLR 603, 670 per Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls.

The court's function was limited to deciding whether the decision of the court below was right on the evidence available to it, unless there was new evidence that could not have been made available then by reasonable diligence or there were some other exceptional circumstances to justify its admission on appeal.

Their Lordships refused the

discovery application because the Gardians by exercise of reasonable diligence could have sought the material on discovery by appealing Mr Justice Laws' decision to the Court of Appeal or by making an application for it to Mr Justice Harrison. They had done neither and their reason for now doing so, namely to challenge Mr Justice Harrison's reasoning on the facts before him, was, in their Lordships' view, insufficient in the circumstances to justify admission.

The material sought was not, as a matter of principle, discoverable save in the most exceptional circumstances. The Gardians were not entitled to see the material before the minister because they did not know whether it was adequate for his decision, unless there was something to suggest that it was not.

Nor were they entitled, in the absence of a prima facie case for suggesting that the affidavit evidence adduced by the Secretary of State was wrong, to seek discovery to go behind it as to the adequacy of that material.

There was no proper basis for the suggestion that the minister's decision was unfair because of what he did not see. The minister's decision was not unreasonable and the appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: Gamling, Storr, Cowdry, Conwy; Treasury

Residence kept in temporary move

Camden London Borough Council v Goldenberg and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Thorpe

Judgment March 14

A temporary move to other accommodation together with a conditional intention to cease living with his grandmother, the secure tenant of a council flat, did not cause the grandson's residence in that flat to cease. He was entitled to succeed his grandmother as a secure tenant of the premises under sections 87 and 93(3) of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments (Lord Justice McCowan dissenting) allowing an appeal by the second defendant, Mr Adam Bloom, the grandson of the first defendant, Mrs Dorothy Goldenberg, from Judge Zuckerman, QC, who, in Central London County Court in November 1994, had held in favour of the landlord, Camden London Borough Council, that Mr Bloom was a person to whom the tenancy of 9 Nalton House, Kilburn, could not be validly assigned.

Section 87 of the 1985 Act provides: "A person is qualified to succeed the tenant under a secure tenancy if he occupies the dwelling

house as his only or principal home at the time of the tenant's removal and either—(a) he is the tenant's spouse, or (b) he is another member of the tenant's family and has resided with the tenant throughout the period of twelve months ending with the tenant's removal."

Miss Geraldine More O'Ferrall for Mr Bloom; Mr Christopher Walker for the council; Mrs Goldenberg did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE THORPE said that Mr Bloom, returning from Israel in 1991, went to live with his grandmother, the secure tenant of the one-bedroomed flat. In February 1992 he married and left the flat, going with his wife to "house sit" for friends who were abroad. It was his intention to move to other independent accommodation if it could be found.

But no opportunity arose and when the friends returned in April 1992 Mr Bloom went back to his grandmother's flat, his wife, a student, having to go elsewhere. In November 1992 the grandmother moved into a nursing home, assigning her tenancy of the flat to Mr Bloom.

The question was whether Mr Bloom had resided with his grandmother throughout the period of twelve months ending in Novem-

ber 1992. Miss More O'Ferrall argued that the judge was wrong to hold that he had not, having failed to consider the important issues of whether Mr Bloom had remained in occupation of the flat despite his absence on what he described as a pseudo-honeymoon and also whether he had had the intention to return to the flat.

The combination of the "house sit", it was said, together with the intention to move to other accommodation if it could be found were insufficient to interrupt Mr Bloom's residence with his grandmother.

A period of absence did not necessarily break continuity of residence. In determining whether or not the departure had that consequence, regard had to be had to (a) the nature and extent of the continuing connection with the premises throughout the period of absence, and (b) the quality of the intention to return: see *Crawley Borough Council v Sanger* [1987] 86 LGR 629 and *Brickfield Ltd v Hughes* [1987] 20 HLR 108.

Nalton House remained throughout Mr Bloom's postal address and the majority of his possessions were left behind there. He had intended to return unless something better turned up before his friends returned from abroad.

But what was the prospect of carrying out that intention? Was it expectation or mere hope?

The reality was that it was a distant prospect sufficient only to qualify and not to displace the intention to return. It had to be characterised as an intention to return unless something unexpected turned up. Such a qualification of the intention to return did not justify the conclusion to which the judge came.

LORD JUSTICE MCCOWAN, dissenting, said that Mr Bloom's intention to return to Nalton House could be characterised as an intention not to return if he succeeded in finding accommodation where he and his wife could live together.

The judge had held that Mr Bloom had failed to discharge the burden of proving that he was residing with his grandmother at the relevant time. That decision could not properly be interfered with.

Moreover, the facts supported the judge's conclusion that there had been a break in the continuity of Mr Bloom's residence with his grandmother.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Thorpe.

Solicitors: Fisher Meredith, Clapham; Miss Amanda Kelly, Camden.

Recalling in patient to same hospital

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte D

Before Mr Justice Hadden

Judgment March 20

The Secretary of State for the Home Department could recall a patient under section 42(3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 to a hospital where he was already receiving treatment.

Mr Justice Hadden so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when refusing an application for habeas corpus brought by D, a patient who had been conditionally discharged under section 42(3) of the 1983 Act, but who was, at the time of his recall by the Secretary of State, a patient under section 3 of the Act at Ash Hill, Hellingly Hospital, Hailsham, East Sussex.

Section 42 of the Mental Health Act 1983 provides: "(3) The Secretary of State may at any time during the continuance in force of a restriction order in respect of a patient who has been conditionally discharged under subsection 2 above by warrant recall the patient to such hospital as may be specified in the warrant."

Mr Justice Hadden said that Mr Michael Kent for the Secretary of State, Mr Philip Engelman for Eastbourne and County Health

Care NHS Trust.

MR JUSTICE HADDEN said that D's previous mental health history for present purposes started on November 29, 1985 when he was found not guilty of murder by reason of insanity and ordered to be detained in hospital under section 51(a) of the Criminal Procedure (Insanity) Act 1964.

As a result, he was made subject to an order under sections 37 and 41 of the 1983 Act. He was then treated in Broadmoor Hospital, from where he was transferred on July 28, 1992 to Ash Hill, a secure unit at Hellingly Hospital.

On October 27, 1993 a mental health review tribunal made an order under section 73 of the 1983 Act that D should be conditionally discharged. He left on March 22, 1994 and moved to a hospital in Brighton.

In the month or so before January 10, 1995 D's mental health deteriorated and he was readmitted to Ash Hill under section 3 of the 1983 Act. It was while he was still so detained that on May 5, 1995 the Secretary of State issued his warrant of recall to Ash Hill. In July 1995 D's detention under section 3 lapsed under section 20.

On November 10, 1995 a mental health review tribunal to which the Secretary of State had previously referred D's case did not order his

release but recommended his transfer to a less secure hospital.

The question was whether the Secretary of State could recall a patient under section 42(3) to a hospital where he was already receiving treatment.

Mr Gledhill submitted that the words "recall the patient to ... hospital" had to be given their ordinary and natural meaning, which meant that the power could only be exercised when the patient was not a patient in that hospital.

It seemed to his Lordship that the answer was to be found in the words of section 42, Subsection (1) gave the Secretary of State the power to terminate a restriction order. Subsection (2) gave him the power to discharge the patient from hospital either absolutely or conditionally. Subsection (3) gave him the power, where there had been a conditional discharge, to recall the patient to the full regime of a restriction order. Subsection (4) made it clear that the hospital mentioned in the warrant might be either the hospital from which the patient was conditionally discharged, or any other hospital.

Those subsections gave the Secretary of State his powers in relation to a section 41 restriction order. They appeared in Part III of the Act and were significantly wider than those under section 3 of the Act which appeared in Part II and dealt with compulsory admission to hospital and guardianship in non-criminal cases.

In his Lordship's judgment, the words "recall" meant "order to return, call back, permanently or temporarily" and there was nothing preventing the issue of such an order to a person who was in fact present at the relevant hospital but without there being in existence any section 41 order in relation to that hospital.

However, if that were not the natural and ordinary meaning of the words, it would be necessary to apply the presumption favouring purposive construction.

Reduced to its basics, Mr Gledhill's argument would have the result that the only hospital which could not be named by the Secretary of State in his section 42(3) warrant would be the one hospital with which the patient had had the closest recent contact and where there were the medical and nursing staff who had most knowledge of him and also where he happened to be.

His Lordship found that result so absurd that Parliament could not have intended it.

Solicitors: Steel & Sharnam, Treasury Solicitor; Dunne Milham Haddock, Brighton.

Protecting rights of creditors

March Estates plc v Gunmark Ltd

Before Mr Justice Lightman

Judgment March 14

Although legislation had created procedures designed to protect corporate debtors from creditors, for example, administration or disclaimer, those were not intended, by a side wind, to affect such creditors' rights against third parties who were liable to them for the same debt.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division, in entering summary judgment for an account followed by payment of arrears of rent in favour of the plaintiff landlord, March Estates plc, against the defendant Gunmark Ltd, which had with licence from March assigned the residue of its term of 25 years granted in 1971 to Eldair Engineering Ltd, a company which had by June 27, 1995 become insolvent, owing £19,316 arrears of rent, and whose directors had presented a petition for an administration order under Part I of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Section 1 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) The directors of a company ... may make a proposal ... to the company and to its creditors for a composition in satisfaction of its debts or a scheme of arrangement of its affairs ... referred to, in either case, as a 'voluntary arrangement'."

Section 5 provides: "(2) The approved voluntary arrangement—(a) takes effect as if made by the company at the creditors' meeting; and (b) binds every person who in accordance with the rules had notice of, and was entitled to vote at, that meeting (whether or not he was present or represented at that meeting) as if he were a party to the voluntary arrangement."

Section 4 provides: "(3) A meeting ... shall not approve any proposal ... which affects the right of a secured creditor of the company to enforce his security, except with the concurrence of the creditor concerned."

Section 6 provides: "(1) ... an application to the court may be made, by a person entitled, in accordance with the rules, to vote at a creditors' meeting on ... the ground ...—(a) that a

voluntary arrangement ... unfairly prejudices the interest of a creditor ..."

Miss Helen Galley for March; Mr Thomas Grant for Gunmark.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that after the directors' petition there had been a creditors' meeting, which had resolved upon "a scheme of arrangement" in the form of a moratorium, as distinct from "a composition in satisfaction of the company's debts".

As shown by *Hindcastle Ltd v Bankers Airedale Associates Ltd* [1994] 2 WLR 362 disclaimer of a lease by a liquidator would not determine the liability, under that lease, of the original lessee or of his surety.

Although a lessor's right of re-entry was not "security" in a legal sense, there had since 1986 been a consistent line of authority to the effect that for the purposes of section 4(3) of the Act, the lessor was a secured creditor in respect of his right to re-enter and forfeit the lease for a breach of covenant. That subsection was designed and apt to preserve sacrosanct the tenant's covenants, so long as they

were secured by a right of re-entry. A voluntary arrangement might postpone, modify or extinguish a lessor's rights as a creditor of a company; none the less

(a) that no voluntary arrangement could prejudice a lessor's right to forfeit the lease if the full rent were unpaid, was implicit in *Doobay v Alltime Securities Ltd* [No 2] [1995] BCC 728, 739A-B; 1149, 1155F-H (Mr Justice Knox and CA);

(b) it was clear from the present facts that the scheme revealed no intention to vary the terms of the lease and even if there had been such intention, it would have been ineffective;

(c) although the scheme bound March and Gunmark, it only bound them with respect to their rights against Eldair; and

(d) there was no such release, by March, of its rights against Eldair as to extinguish March's rights against Gunmark.

There was accordingly summary judgment for March for all the rent found to be unpaid.

Solicitors: Helder Roberts & Co, Epsom; Churchers, Gosport.

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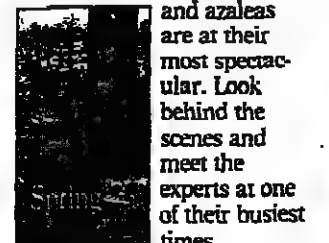
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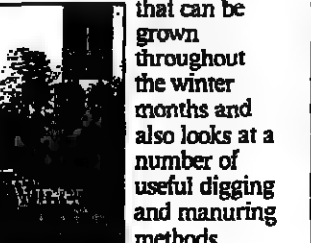
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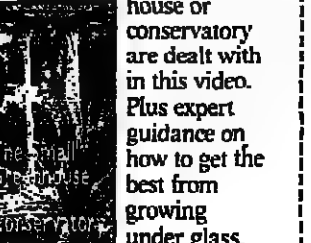
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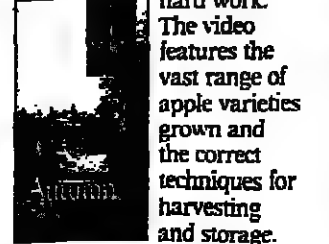
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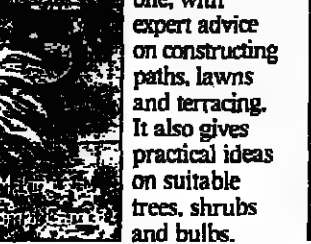
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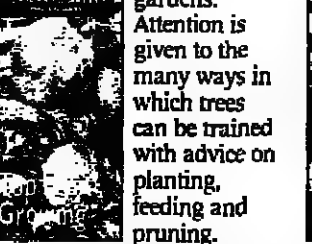
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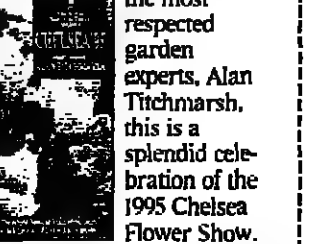
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RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Chartwell International Group, Frogmore Estates. **Finals:** Automotive Products, Burmah Castrol, Caverdale Group, Highland Distilleries, IBC Group, Innovative Technologies, London and Manchester Group, Macallan-Glenlivet, Radamec Group, Reunion Mining, Sharpe & Fisher, Tanjong, Uster TV.

Economic statistics: UK March purchasing managers' index, UK February M0 money supply, US March NAPM survey, US February construction spending.

TOMORROW

Interims: James Halstead, Highland Distilleries, Innovations Group, Old Mutual South Africa Trust, Pascoe's Group, Finaite: Brooks Service Group, Chelsfield, CLS Holdings, Clydeport, Dagenham Motors Group, Fiscal Properties, GSE International, Gowings, JBA Holdings, Kynoch Group, Osele Stores, Scholl, Tarmac, TrafficMaster, Walker Greatbank, Waterford Wedgwood, Watts, Blake, Beame and Co, Yorkdyke.

Economic statistics: UK February official reserves, US Q4 final GDP, US February leading indicators.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Lyons Irish Holdings, McKenna. **Finals:** Aegis Group, Atlas Converting Equipment, Blockleys, British Dredging, BWI, Chestow Racecourse, City Centre Restaurants, Denitron International, Goldsmiths Group, Hewden Stuart, Laird Group, Princesdale Group, Rugby Estates, United Industries, Vymura.

Economic statistics: UK monthly monetary meeting, US February factory orders, German March unemployment.

THURSDAY

Interims: London and St Lawrence Investment Company, Finaite: Sea Bailey Construction, Bilton, First Russian Frontiers Trust, Friendly Hotels, Home Counties Newspapers Holdings, Alfred McAlpine, Martin International Holdings, UK Safety.

Economic statistics: UK February housing starts and completions, Bank of France monthly policy meeting, US weekly jobless claims, US February housing completions.

Burmah Castrol runs smoothly



Jonathan Fry, chief executive, is expected to report an impressive set of full-year figures

BURMAH CASTROL: The long-time takeover favourite Burmah Castrol is due to unveil impressive full-year figures today. These are expected to show net profit after tax and exceptional items, climbing from £114 million to £129 million. Bruce Evers, oil analyst with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, expects the main thrust of the improvement to come from the group's involvement in emerging countries.

The star performance will come from Castrol India, its 51 per cent owned subsidiary, which continues to enjoy strong growth, but positive performances will also come from places such as Thailand and Vietnam. "The resurgence in some of these economies has been phenomenal," Mr Evers says.

But the group's performance in the US is likely to have been mixed. The industrial side should have enjoyed a reasonable performance, but, on the consumer side, conditions have been unsettled.

Europe will have been weak compared with the rest of the group, while Fosco will have benefited from a strong first-half performance. Fuels are expected to be down 15 per cent year-on-year, with a positive first-half performance being outweighed by the cost of restructuring later in the year.

TARMAC: It was a busy time for Tarmac as it repositioned itself in the construction market with the exchange of assets with Wimpey, one of its rivals. As a result, full-year figures out tomorrow are unlikely to make pleasant reading for shareholders. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting a fall in pre-tax profit to about £97.2 million, compared with £107.2 million in 1994.

One of the drawbacks of its restructuring programme has been greater exposure to the road construction industry, in which conditions are described as bleak, at best. In spite of the profits shortfall, it looks as if the dividend will be pegged at 5.5p.

HEWDEEN STUART: After cautious comments about the plant hire industry at the halfway stage, it looks as if conditions may have deteriorated further since then. Even so, the group

should be able to achieve a small improvement for the year when it reports on Wednesday, with the poor weather and flooding in January providing a boost to demand for driers and general tool hire for repair work.

Brokers have pencilled in a figure of about £36.5 million, against £34.8 million last time. It should allow scope for a modest increase on the dividend, with 3p being forecast against 2.7p.

LAIRD GROUP: The group is expected to have continued to benefit from its recent acquisition programme when full-year figures are announced on Wednesday.

Brokers forecast a rise in pre-tax profits from last year's £48 million to about £70 million after a 57 per cent leap in the first half to £37.5 million. The range is £68 million to £75 million.

A strong all-round performance is expected, with both the automotive and non-automotive parts of its business performing strongly. Vehicle-related sales should be 27 per cent ahead compared with an 8 per cent increase for the industry generally. It will have been helped in no small part by a full first-time contribution from Draflex, its recent acquisition in Spain. Fullerton, Laird's computer-

related operation in the US, will have recovered from start-up costs in the third quarter relating to its phase one plant in the US serving IBM and Compaq. The only weak link will be building materials where the performance will have been affected by the gloomy backdrop to the industry generally.

HIGHLAND DISTILLERIES: In an effort to revive its fortunes in a depressed drinks industry, the group this year launched its own brand of gin and even held talks with Remy Cointreau in an effort to bolster overseas sales. It is unlikely that these ventures

will have any impact on interim figures expected from the group tomorrow. But it will be trying hard to make up for last year's disappointing performance.

Once again, any improvement in profits is likely to stem from sales of Famous Grouse, its Scotch whisky, which is estimated to account for about 50 per cent of the group's profits in this country and as much as 70 per cent worldwide.

A small increase in pre-tax profit has been pencilled in this time, with brokers forecasting £24.5 million, against £23.7 million for the corresponding period. The drinks market remains depressed. Sales are sluggish, although the picture is slightly brighter for the group overseas.

MACALLAN GLENLIVET: It is likely to be a similar story for Macallan Glenlivet when it unveils full-year figures today. The drinks market remains difficult, at whichever end a company happens to be operating. This will be clearly revealed in Macallan's figures, which are expected to show a rise in pre-tax profits of less than £1 million to £7.53 million. However, according to NatWest Securities, shareholders can comfort themselves with a 15 per cent increase in the total dividend to 1.46p.

LONDON & MANCHESTER: A change in accounting rules are expected to complicate full-year figures from the life insurer today. Pre-tax profits are expected to show a rise of £2.1 million to £41 million, but earnings will show a decline from 20.6p to 19.7p. The underlying trend is likely to reveal a slowdown in life profits growth. A 9 per cent increase in the dividend to 18.7p is likely to be achieved by a reduction in cover.

UNITED FRIENDLY: These figures are also likely to be clouded by those changes to accounting rules and the payment of special bonuses. But mixed trading conditions are likely to see pre-tax profits down from £47.6 million to about £42 million when the group reports tomorrow. The consolation for shareholders will be a 20 per cent rise in the dividend to 24p.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Jobs under the spotlight

With few major statistics due to be published in Britain and the monthly monetary meeting on Wednesday expected to leave UK interest rates unchanged, this week's focus will be on France, where the Group of Seven industrialised nations meet for a jobs summit, and America, where the latest employment figures are eagerly awaited.

The jobs summit takes place in Lille today against a background of John Shepperd, of Yamaichi International Europe puts it, "slowing or outright depressed levels of manufacturing activity in most of the major European economies". February figures for German industrial production, due to be released today, are expected to show a fall in manufacturing output of 1.4 per cent. Also out today is Britain's purchasing managers' index, which has been suggesting that manufacturing is stagnant. Against this, some economists say a small cut in French interest rates is possible after the Bank of France's council meeting on Thursday.

Many American statistics are published this week, all of which will be closely examined given the current confusion about the state of the US recovery. The US purchasing managers' survey for March is published today, to be followed tomorrow by the final figures for fourth-quarter gross domestic product and February leading indicators, with personal spending and income for February to come on Wednesday.

But the most important figure of the week will be Friday's non-farm payrolls for March. The February figures caught the financial markets by surprise. Wall Street had been looking for a bounce-back in employment, but the rise was at least twice as big as expected. Now, the markets are waiting to see if that February figure is revised and whether a weaker number emerges for March.

Other British releases this week are M0 narrow money supply today, reports on house prices from the Halifax and Nationwide building societies, official reserves and housing starts.

JANET BUSH

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Aegis, Alfred McAlpine and Princesdale. Avoid Hodder Headline. Hold Next. The Mail on Sunday: Buy Boxmore International. Hold Monument Oil & Gas. Independent on Sunday: Buy National Power and PowerGen and Enterprise Oil. Avoid P&O. Sell Wm Morrison. The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Burmah Castrol. Crescare and Tarmac.

GILT-EDGED

Debt is the worry, not inflation

This economic cycle is different. The British economy has been recovering for more than three years, but inflation is still low. Even the normally cautious Bank of England expects it to stay low. In spite of this, there are misplaced fears that recovery will trigger inflation. Some people are even making comparisons with the credit boom of the 1980s. The 1980s might be more appropriate. Then, the world economy was undergoing structural change, with commodity prices and inflation falling, triggering severe economic dislocation, as newly industrialised economies caught up.

Now it is the turn of South-East Asia to catch up. Western companies have to restructure. This has brought low inflation in the 1990s, and this will continue. British firms are working: existing employees and capacity more efficiently. Productivity has risen. Unit labour costs remain subdued. Even though skilled workers' pay may rise, global disinflationary pressures and corporate downsizing will cap wage pressure. There are some risks. The biggest is the lack of previous investment, because it could trigger inflation bottlenecks. Higher productivity should

lessen this risk. Also, rising imports and a deteriorating trade deficit may act as a safety valve for inflation pressures. Firms' past reluctance to invest means that even an improving rate of return on capital in business may not trigger the investment it should.

Low inflation contributed to a strong rise in real personal disposable income last year. Along with subsequent policy easing, this should allow steady consumer spending. However, sluggish wages and

ing from 2.9 per cent last year to 2.4 per cent this year and only 2 per cent in 1997.

This should hardly worry gilt investors. Low inflation should let the Chancellor cut rates again, particularly if rates on the Continent fall. I expect base rates to fall to 5.5 per cent by late summer, although the Chancellor may take a neutral stance in the next two months, as he assesses the pace of recovery.

Although sterling may weaken in the immediate approach to an election, its down-

ing when they win. Will policy lead the UK to buck the international trend of low inflation? I do not think the risks in the UK are higher than elsewhere.

If investors are to worry, it should be about debt. In the new fiscal year, the Government plans to issue £32.6 billion in gilts, taking into account £11.4 billion maturing gilts as well as new issuance. This is sizeable, but, judging from recent years, the outcome could be higher.

For international bond markets, inflation is not the problem. Debt-to-GDP ratios have continued to rise in the industrialised world, as pension and health costs have increased. High structural unemployment has added to the problem on the Continent, and the Government's inability to control general expenditure has worsened matters here. Fortunately the UK's medium-term debt outlook does not look so bad, but investors may need to be convinced that an incoming Labour government could control spending. In view of these debt worries, the yield curve may remain steep, even though inflation will stay low.

GERARD LYONS
DKB International

Investors may need to be convinced that a Labour government could control spending

job insecurity will ensure that the rebound in spending is at a moderate, not unsustainable pace. Consumers still expect value for money, and this will cap inflation pressure.

Falling inflation can accompany steady economic growth. The retail price equation in the Treasury's economic model shows significantly less inflation pressure in the last four years than the model would have expected. I expect this trend to continue, with underlying retail price inflation fall-

side against the mark should be limited, partly because the recent devaluation has been followed by competitive gains, and not inflation. This calls into question the pessimism being built into the gilt market, where ten-year yields are 1.8 per cent above those on comparable German bonds.

This risk premium is too high. It reflects concerns that British inflation is about to soar, either by the Chancellor easing policy too much before the election or by Labour reflat-

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

FRIENDS PROVIDENT NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 163rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIER'S HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, SE1, on WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 1996 at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

- To receive the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st December 1995 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- To re-elect as Directors of the Office the following Directors, who retire by rotation:
Keith Satchell
John Whitely
- To elect as a Director of the Office Peter Jones who has been appointed since the last Annual General Meeting.
- To re-appoint Price Waterhouse as the auditors to the Office and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

By Order of the Directors,
B.W. Sweetland,
Secretary.
1st April 1996
Friends' Provident Life Office,
Fitcham End, Dorking, Surrey RH4 1QA

NOTES

- A Member is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member) to attend the above meeting and vote instead of him.
- To be valid the instrument appointing a proxy, which should be as near to the form set out in rule 30 of the Rules of the Office as circumstances admit, and the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed, or a notariated certified copy of that power or authority, must be deposited at Fitcham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, not less than forty-eight hours before the time fixed for holding the meeting, or adjourned meeting, or, in the case of a poll, not less than twenty-four hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll.
- Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.
- Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy numbers.
- Only Members are entitled to vote. Certain policyholders are not Members. If a policyholder who is not also a Member completes and returns a form of proxy, it will not be counted.
- Members have one vote each irrespective of the number of policies held.
- Members are entitled, on application to the Secretary, to receive a copy of the Report and Accounts.

LEGAL NOTICES

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, I, JOHN J. HANCOCK, of the City of London, Solicitor, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original as filed with me on the 28th day of March 1996.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 163rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF FRIENDS PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE will be held at GLAZIER'S HALL, 9 MONTAGUE CLOSE, LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, SE1, on WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL 1996 at 2.30 p.m. to transact the following business:-

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CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5262 (-0.0086)

German mark 2.2531 (-0.0115)

Exchange index 83.4 (-0.5)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2768.0 (-1.1)

FT-SE 100 3699.7 (-7.3)

New York Dow Jones 5587.14 (-49.5)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave 21406.85 (+705.93)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.06	1.90
Austria Sch	15.86	15.38
Belgium Fr	49.32	45.02
Canada \$	2.189	2.022
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.884
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mdk	7.88	7.01
France Fr	8.10	7.45
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	368.00	363.00
Hong Kong \$	12.45	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.160	4.510
Italy Lire	2489.00	2344.00
Japan Yen	178.50	162.80
Malta	0.590	0.558
Netherlands Gld	2.675	2.445
New Zealand \$	2.58	2.17
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	6.84	5.84
Spain Ptas	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.83	10.03
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	112697	104697
USA \$	1.623	1.493

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

Panther to pounce on Elys results

The hostile bid by Panther Securities for Elys, the department store group, will become more heated this week when Panther sends a strongly worded letter to Elys shareholders condemning the group's annual results. Andrew Perloff, Panther chairman, will tell shareholders that the group had a "disastrous" trading year in 1995.

Housing hope

The housing market is set for a modest recovery, according to National Westminster. David Kern, chief economist, is forecasting a 2 per cent rise in house prices in 1996.

Pay deals steady

Pay settlements are continuing to hold steady, rising at 3.5 per cent, according to Industrial Relations Services, the independent pay research company.

Wetherall issue

Wetherall, the UK manufacturer of reversible women's coats, skirts and jackets, is raising £340,000 through the issue of 1.7 million shares at 20p each.

Richard Thomson on the first criminal charges against the tobacco industry

Smoking out the 'evil empire'

BROWN & WILLIAMSON, the US tobacco subsidiary of BAT Industries, will this week face the first criminal charges ever brought against the tobacco industry by the US Justice Department when several employees are expected to be indicted for smuggling.

The indictment will represent a further blow to the company which is already locked in a legal battle with a former employee who has accused it of lying about the addictiveness of nicotine in cigarettes. It will also be another setback for the entire tobacco industry that is still reeling from the recent decision by Liggett Group to settle two legal actions, the first time a tobacco company has done so.

Federal officials have stated that they are seeking an indictment against Brown & Williamson employees from a grand jury in New Orleans on charges that they obtained cigarettes from international sources and subsequently had them smuggled into Canada to avoid the country's high taxes.

This is the first of five federal grand jury investigations into the tobacco industry to reach an indictment. Other investigations involve whether



Come to where the lawsuits are: Philip Morris, the Marlboro combine, faces 125 actions

tobacco executives lied during Congressional testimony in 1994, whether tobacco companies engaged in securities fraud violations and whether the industry concealed research into the health risk of cigarettes. Brown & Williamson, the third largest cigarette

company in the US, is involved in most of these investigations. Evidence in respect of the smuggling charge came from a raid by federal agents on the company's headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky, last year.

Further legal pressure on

the tobacco industry last week came from the state government of Texas via a \$4 billion lawsuit to recover healthcare costs of smokers. Launching the suit, Dan Morales, Texas attorney-general, called the tobacco industry an "evil empire". His suit joins those from

six other states claiming back the cost of looking after people made sick as a result of smoking. It accuses the industry of systematic fraud and racketeering since the 1950s by withholding facts about the dangers of smoking and enticing people to smoke.

The tobacco industry was thrown into confusion two weeks ago when Liggett agreed to settle two big lawsuits in a move that broke an agreement within the industry to fight all legal challenges brought against it. The tobacco industry feared that a settlement would set a precedent that would open the floodgates to a spate of new court actions. Such fears appear well-founded and other states are expected to follow the Texas lead.

Philip Morris, the Marlboro tobacco combine, has vowed to fight all charges brought against it. The company and its subsidiaries face 125 lawsuits alleging tobacco-related illnesses. Cases are also pending against its Canadian and Brazilian subsidiaries. Against this background, investment managers are becoming increasingly bearish towards tobacco shares.

Sporty hero for the B&B

CHRISTOPHER Rodrigues, otherwise the "Outsider" or the "Quiet American", who is to take over as chief executive of the Bradford & Bingley in June, is causing almost as big a stir in building society circles as talk of conversion.

At Thomas Cook, where he worked for eight years, Rodrigues, a US-educated Briton, was rated a swash-buckling hero. The sports fanatic took two weeks off each year to coach the Cambridge rowing team and spent weekends in the Cotswolds, perfecting the role of country gent. "He's very gung-ho and has boundless energy," gushes a Thomas Cook insider. "Every Friday, he'd walk through the door on Berkeley Street with at least two guns on one shoulder and a rod on the other."

Big in beef

ALLIED Domeq Leisure is continuing its bovine bonanza, announced a fortnight ago, to develop a further 100 Big Steak Pubs in the next 12 months. In spite of recent concern about beef, the company is putting about £750,000 into each new outlet, creating 40 to 50 jobs at each. Big Steak, famed for its 32oz rump, from New Zealand, says it will now sell only beef from Australasia and Argentina. England and Wales already have 335 Big Steak pubs, most boasting Wacky Warehouse play sites for young foodies.

Like hot cakes

DEMAND for the up-market *Aga Magazine* from cosy kitchens is so great that its publishers are starting subscriptions. Until now, the magazine that interviews Aga-owners such as Anthea Turner, has been available only to those having a service contract with the cooker company.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

or through provincial Cooker Centres. The Aga was invented in 1922, by a blind Swedish physicist, and the publishers expect its devotees to ensure that the glossy quarterly, costing £15 a year, hits 120,000 circulation by harvest time.

Sting in the tail

DETAILS emerge of revelry behind the £18 million joint venture of Grand Metropolitan, the drinks group, and Qufu, the state-owned Chinese distillery. Expeditionaries from GrandMet's International Distillers and Vintners visiting Shandong Province were obliged to join in a local ritual of knocking back a dozen glasses of local Confucius Family Liquor to wash down a plate... of scorpions.

Number one

ROBERT Smith's election as president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland should shake things up. Smith is not a partner in a big accountancy firm. As chief accountant of Morgan Grenfell development capital, he is more noted for streetwise deals. While with Charterhouse merchant bank, he dubbed his team "animals with hairy chests". More braveheart than accountant, perhaps.

MORAG PRESTON

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

CARRIWITCHET

(b) A pun, quibble; a hoaxing question or conundrum. Derivation unknown. Dr Flitzward Hall asks: "Can it be a corruption of the French *colifichet*? Who can tell. Flitzward? Walter Scott, *Nigel*, 1822: "Mortally wounded with a quibble or a carriwitchet at the Mermaid."

COLOQUINTIDA

(b) The colocynth or Bitter-apple (*Citrullus Colocynthus*), a widely-cultivated plant of the Gourd family, the fruit of which is about the size of an orange, and contains a light spongy and extremely bitter pulp, furnishing the well-known purgative drug. J. C. Powys's *A Glastonbury Romance*: "Hours sweet as honey and hours bitter as colocynthis had slid down the same fatal slope into everlasting oblivion."

CETE

(b) A company of badgers. Possibly an adaptation of the Latin *coetus*, in medieval spelling *coetus*, meaning, assembly, company. "Keeping what the old writers used to call a cete of badgers."

JONGLEUR

(a) The Norman French term (technically used by modern writers) for an itinerant minstrel, who sang and composed ballads, told stories, and otherwise entertained people. By confusion with *joculator*, altered to juggler. Bulwer Lytton, *Rienzi*, 1835: "A minstrel or jongleur, with a small lute slung round him, was making his way through the throng."

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

Societies forecast shrinkage

Building society chief executives believe the number of societies will contract by at least a quarter before the end of the century. Some 11 per cent of those questioned in a recent poll go further with the prediction that the number of societies will more than halve in the space of four years.

The survey, conducted by the *Mortgage Finance Gazette* and Hammond Suddards, the solicitor, found that mergers between societies are expected to be the most likely route of shrinkage.

The industry does not expect to see another round of building societies converting to banks or merging with other quoted companies. Almost 70 per cent of respondents expect the number of societies to drop from 79 to under 60 by the end of the century.

Pay change

Glaxo-Wellcome, the giant UK drugs group, has scrapped paying some of its directors £20,000 for their services as pension fund trustees. The payments were made to certain executive and non-executive directors, including Sir Paul Girolami, former chief executive, and Lord Howe, a former Chancellor.

Brand advice

The Patent Office is urging British owners of brands to oppose European Union trademarks which clash with their UK-registered trademarks if they wish to stop the European mark becoming effective in the UK. The international trademark systems come into force today.

MBO record

A record £3.1 billion worth of management buyout and buy-in deals were completed in the year to March 31, according to research by the Centre for Management Buyout Research. It says that, in the first quarter of 1996, about £3.3 billion worth of deals were completed.



Deutsche Morgan Grenfell emerged the victors of the mixed final of the EXCO Broomball Challenge Cup on the ice rink at Broadgate in the City. The bank's team "The Dulwich Maternity Clinic", one of 120 to take part over five months, beat "The City Slickers", above, a team entered by Thomas Miller, a reinsurance company

Equities jobs toll tops 370 at Merrill Lynch

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MERRILL LYNCH, the American investment banking house that acquired Smith New Court last summer, has cut 375 equities jobs since September, a third of them in London.

Michael Marks, the former chairman of Smith New Court who became the deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch International, said that most of the cuts arose from the elimination of overlap in settlements operations in the newly merged organisations.

The firm has also suffered some high-profile departures of key former SNC staff, including the head and deputy head of UK research, prompting a management reshuffle. There is still talk

of a clash of culture between the two firms. However, Mr Marks played down the un- planned departures, saying that tensions in the merged organisation "were much less than expected last summer".

Smith New Court, historically the largest market-maker in London, saw its Stock Exchange market share fall from 19 per cent to 17 per cent in September at the time of the physical integration of the firms. However, Mr Marks said that it was now at 21.3 per cent, "the highest it has ever been".

Agency business has also improved - from 11 per cent in January to 12.8 per cent now.

Mr Marks said that the next step for the combined organisation was to push international

equities research into Merrill Lynch's private client equities business and to leverage international research in the US.

Combining the two organisations has enabled the firm to win mandates that would not have come its way before the merger.

Mr Marks quoted the example of the firm's appointment as lead broker to the Halifax, which it won from SBC Warburg.

Merrill Lynch was also appointed early this year as broker to Abbey National, replacing Kleinwort Benson Securities, which had acted for Abbey since its conversion from a building society to a bank in 1989.

Ian Harley, the finance di-

rector of Abbey, said that the bank had picked Merrill Lynch because of the increasing US focus to its business through its Treasury operations and its recent American Depository Receipt launch.

It retained SBC Warburg as joint broker because it felt that the quality of the banking analysis was stronger.

Bob McCann, the deputy chairman of Merrill Lynch, said that the next stage would be the integration of the two firms' information technology systems.

He added: "The acquisition of Smith New Court has caused us in a very positive way, to have to address issues of systems development that we would have had to face eventually anyway."

OFT may examine bid for IoM ferry

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SPECULATION is mounting that Sea Containers' proposed £46 million takeover of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company may prompt an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading.

In response to inquiries by *The Times*, a spokesman for the OFT said that, as Steam Packet was the only provider of ferry services between the Isle of Man and the mainland, its role was "something we will look into and which we could be concerned with".

Investigations are triggered if a company created out of a merger controls more than 25 per cent of the market. Steam Packet directors have recommended shareholders to accept the offer, which values the company at between £43.8 million and £46.8 million. The cash offer is 146p per share, a premium of 13.2 per cent over last Thursday's market price of 129p.

The cash and shares offer is one Sea Containers share plus 480p in cash for every ten Steam Packet shares. Steam Packet has been independent for almost 166 years. A large proportion of Manx residents hold shares in it and may be reluctant to sell to the Bermuda-based shipping combine. The Steam Packet board claimed summer sailing schedules were unlikely to be altered and said it did not expect any initial job losses among the 200 employees.

Walter Gilbey, director and acting chairman, said: "We do not believe a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission will be necessary. The board will remain in place and Sea Containers intends to honour the ten-year contract with the Isle of Man Government which regulates the standard of services and frequency of sailings, and dictates that prices cannot rise by more than inflation minus 0.5 per cent."

Mr Gilbey, who believes they are entitled to interim hardship payments after the grounding of the *Sea Empress* off Milford Haven have until the end of this month to make their claim. So far, some 30 claims have been lodged with Skuld, the Norwegian insurer.

SFA review may result in tougher penalties

By ROBERT MILLER

SENIOR officials from the City watchdog responsible for taking disciplinary action against former senior executives at Barings over their supervisory role in the £860 million collapse are to consider tougher sanctions against rule-breakers.

Executives from the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, met last week to discuss making the "proximity" relationship between directors and senior managers and those below them more clearly defined. A spokesman for the SFA said yesterday: "We have to look at our procedures and rules in this area and see if it is appropriate to make them more watertight."

The SFA, which has charged nine former Barings executives for failing to act with due skill, care and diligence in monitoring the trading activities of Nick Leeson, has undertaken the review after independent legal advice said that the watchdog could not press charges against the two most senior men at the 233-year-old merchant bank. To do so, the SFA would have had to prove that they had committed "an act of misconduct" and there was no such evidence.

The SFA did, however, secure an agreement from Peter Baring, the former chairman, that he would never return to work in the City, while his deputy, Andrew Tuckey, agreed to a more restricted role.

ING, the Dutch banking and insurance combine that bought Barings, said last week that Mr Tuckey, 52, had taken early retirement on an annual pension of around £120,000 and could expect to receive a further sum in the region of £110,000 for consultancy work. ING Barings has resisted calls for Mr Tuckey, who resigned from his management positions after the crash last year, to leave the bank altogether. An ING executive is reported to have said: "We're not giving them that and there's no point in saying that we are."

The deadline by which the nine former executives must decide whether to appeal against the SFA sanctions or agree to settle passed last Friday. The nine include Peter Norris, former chief executive officer, who is understood to be facing an indefinite ban from certain SFA registers for senior executives as well as costs of more than £10,000.

Another senior figure, Ian Hopkins, who was in charge of group treasury and risk, is believed to have refused to accept a possible three-year ban from the senior SFA registers plus a costs bill of £10,000.

Maiden aims for market

By ROBERT MILLER

MAIDEN GROUP, one of the largest media owners in the UK outdoor advertising market, will today unveil plans to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange to reduce its debt and raise additional funds for possible future acquisitions. The placing will raise about £20 million and value the company at not less than £65 million.

Maiden, which has about 25,000 poster sites, was the subject of a management buyout in April 1993. Since then, turnover has risen 52 per cent to £36.5 million. Unaudited results for 1995 show that operating profits, excluding exceptional items, are up 77 per cent to £5.9 million.

Maiden will come to the market through Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, with NatWest Securities acting as broker.

The Advertising Association forecasts that total UK advertising revenues, excluding production costs, will rise to £6.6 billion by the end of this year, compared with £5.8 billion in 1994. Outdoor advertising revenues are expected to increase to £403 million, from £350 million, over the same period.

Millennium flotation to raise £150m

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MILLENNIUM and Copthorne, the hotel enterprise, is aiming to raise about £150 million when the company floats at the end of this month.

The flotation will value the hotel chain at about £350 million, with CDL Millennium's parent company in Singapore, continuing to hold between 55 and 60 per cent of the stock. Millennium yesterday published its pathfinder prospectus and accounts for 1995, which showed operating profits of £34.6 million on a turnover of £159 million. The company's net assets are valued at £292 million.

Edward Grenlich, chief executive of Millennium, said: "The flotation will help raise the profile of our portfolio of 23 hotels in the UK, New York, France and Germany as well as Millennium and Copthorne brands internationally. It will also increase our flexibility to pursue our strategy of growth by selective acquisition."

Mr Grenlich said the flotation would provide capital for expansion, with about £100 million allocated to the repayment of debt.

British banks face huge outlay for dithering on euro

By MARTIN WALLER

THE single European currency could cost British high street banks as much as £300 million apiece, rising to £500 million if delays in preparation for the coming of the euro continue.

This analysis comes from a paper from BMS Bossard, the European management consultants, published in *The Banker* today. Shahram Nikpour, the author and partner in charge of financial services, says British banks are well behind their European rivals in preparing for a single currency.

BMS Bossard estimates that converting to the euro could take British banks four years and require between 3,000 and 5,000 man years to effect.

Banking sources have long been concerned about the cost of the switch to a single currency, but insist delays are inevitable because of the continued political wrangling over Europe. Banks are unwilling to commit themselves to extra spending on systems and conversion until they are sure Britain will join the European Monetary System.



Nikpour: concern over delay

But Mr Nikpour says costs rise every time the banks delay facing facts about the single currency issue.

Mr Grenlich in Europe's big four economies is down sharply, with negative growth in the final quarter of 1995 recorded in all but the UK, according to DRI McGraw Hill. In research published today, DRI, which says Germany is technically "almost certainly" in recession, predicts that the general economic slowdown is likely to lead to a brief postponement of the introduction of European monetary union.

A whole new ball game for Chelsea

TRADING in Chelsea Village - the parent company of Chelsea Football Club - will kick off today with about nine million shares placed on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

The float values Chelsea at £58 million. This makes the club nominally the second most valuable in the country, although a long way behind fully quoted Manchester United, capitalised at more

than £150 million, who yesterday beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup semi-final. The club will be operating a share hotline today and is encouraging supporters to buy, although there is no formal allocation system. But investors, as opposed to supporters, might want to consider that the club does not intend to pay any dividends in the foreseeable future and that 90 per cent of the share

capital is controlled by Ken Bates and a number of other anonymous shareholders.

Meanwhile, the crisis over "mad cow" disease fixed attention back on Electro-phoretic International, which has been attempting to find a cure for the disease. But speculators hoping to make a profit last week will have come away disappointed. The shares ended 17p down on the week at 148p.

■ A KPMG Corporate Finance survey out today says that the attractions of AIM to smaller companies has led to a noticeable fall in full stock market listings in the first quarter of the year. There were only 16 full flotations raising just under £1 billion compared with 22 in the same period last year.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

1995-1996 Low High				1995-1996 Low High				1995-1996 Low High				1995-1996 Low High			
Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E	Price	Wtd	Yld	P/E
(millions)	+/	-		(millions)	+/	-		(millions)	+/	-		(millions)	+/	-	
134	89	19.10	AMCO Corp	134	+20	4.2	14.7	95	85	LifeTime As Ten	95	...	...	...	...
39	16	2.05	Abacus Recruit	39	...	...	...	29	16	Lin Financial	29	...	...	...	...
130	118	18.40	A de Guichy	125	...	5.6	10.4	90	56	1.38 London Town	90	...	...	...	...
16	14	16.20	Albion Gold	15	...	...	...	228	100	12.00 Lufthansa	228	...	...	...	...
14	11	4.25	Albermarle & Id	13	...	...	...	28	17	10.60 Mars & O'Shea	28	...	...	2.3	24.4
24	17	9.97	Alpha Omission	19	...	...	...	130	113	13.60 M&M & Merc S	130	...	...	11.2	...
435	380	37.30	Ann St Brewery	350	-5	5.6	11.7	127	58	42.70 Megafonmedia	127	...	...	...	...
905	865	6.30	Ann St Cv Pl	895	...	...	...	108	38	10.00 Meritone	108	...	...	...	...
156	73	67.50	Antico	85	...	...	...	111	83	6.71 MetLife	111	...	...	13	3.0
10	8	1.89	Arian Props	8	...	...	...	595	125	91.80 Memory Corp	595	...	...	...	...
75	51	14.90	Asst Central	66	-3	...	...	25	21	6.04 Metrodata Pl	25	...	...	...	...
61	39	1.10	Ashley Trust	57	...	...	...	220	83	15.20 Monarch	220	...	...	...	...
8	5	5.78	Balysway	5	...	...	...	0	0	5.00 Mountshel	0	...	...	...	...
37	15	5.13	Banks Hops	20	+	...	...	82	32	23.10 MultiMedia	82	...	...	8	...
48	43	3.65	Bellmont	43	...	...	...	240	280	21.80 NWF Co	240	...	...	45	2.8
125	140	0.89	Bentley Ltd	145	-2	3.9	...	210	140	21.80 NWF Co	210	...	...	4.1	...
75	70	...	Brown Lds Cv Pl	70	...	...	...	345	200	8.73 Nels Clark	345	...	...	2.2	16.7
63	49	6.02	Branco Hops	60	...	...	...	208	145	5.49 Nelson Cobbart	208	...	...	2.4	10.0
345	190	40.70	Brookbank	345	+2	2.7	...	73	61	Meridian	73	...	...	...	...
118	108	0.94	CCI Powder Ste	110	...	...	...	73	59	Normans	73	...	...	...	...
110	108	0.13	CCI Powder Ste	110	...	...	...	73	59	Normans	73	...	...	...	...
122	85	3.45	Cale Int	122	...	...	...	73	59	Normans	73	...	...	...	...
76	75	1.25	Caledonian Ist	75	...	...	...	73	59	Normans	73	...	...	...	...
2	2	1.55	Capit & Weln	2	...	...	...	73	59	Normans	73	...	...	...	...
83	48	16.90	Card Clear	75	-1	...	...	115	103	17.80 Marsing Home	115	...	...	1.3	33.1
84	60	3.28	Century Group	75	...	...	...	110	54	13.50 Old English Pub	110	...	...	...	...
54	41	1.75	Century W F	41	...	6.0	8.8	55	50	12.00 Polyplex Plums	55	...	...	0.7	...
79	17	4.99	Celebrated Group	17	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
9750	6570	25.30	Celtic	9750	+200	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
9550	8450	16.40	CI Compani(V)	9455	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
130	109	7.47	Claremont Ltd	122	...	2.5	15.7	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
166	50	7.47	Claremont Ltd	122	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
110	95	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
35	28	13.10	Clifford Pl	50	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
510	500	12.20	Com de Pl Pl	510	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
44	30	1.75	Conister Ltd	40	...	5.0	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
83	53	15.30	Country Sds	83	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
73	56	2.69	Crity Gds Pl	73	...	9.1	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	4.6	21.3
139	52	35.60	Crown Int	98	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
83	52	21.20	Crown Products	58	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
210	115	13.30	DBS Management	197	-3	3.8	8.0	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
43	34	...	Dalton Int	34	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
71	63	3.41	David Glass	63	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
1250	480	57.20	Deussen Hops	1250	...	3.0	33.8	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
14	10	5.75	Dean Corp	13	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
80	63	12.20	Demak	66	...	2	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
137	118	16.80	Eastnet	118	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
200	80	95.70	ElectroPhonics	148	-17	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
130	120	5.40	Euro Sales Pl	120	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
105	105	...	...	105	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
22	15	5.40	Greenfield	18	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
165	145	32.40	Guthrie	145	...	3.5	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
90	25	2.34	Hanson	23	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
130	100	99.00	Hiscox Ded Ins	100	...	0.3	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
119	105	10.70	Indit Radio	107	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
88	68	14.20	Inter Workings	85	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
543	488	21.50	Int'l Settlements	513	...	1.2	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
143	108	32.10	IOC Int	131	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
118	83	3.87	Jasmin	85	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
305	275	22.00	Jennings Bros	285	...	2.7	21.4	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
141	93	39.00	JS Brumad	103	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
165	132	25.30	Lancashire En	140	...	...	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
243	195	48.80	Lancashire En	243	...	0.8	...	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
3052	2550	49.80	Laurie Group	2550	-200	3.5	13.9	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...
495	255	45.10	Le Riches Srs	260	...	7.4	25.5	86	51	8.12 OmdiaMedia	86	...	...	...	...

Here is the latest political promise to privatised business. "There is no question of existing contracts being cancelled against the wishes of the parties to them." Actually, this is not the latest message. It came on Friday when Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, cheerfully ran over Labour's previous policy and loyalty waved the green flag for next month's sale of Railtrack. Labour will do anything to appear responsible and that usually means pledging to do as little as possible.

The very latest message came from John Major on Saturday and is scheduled to be followed up today by John Gummer, who often has to grit his teeth as Clare Short is learning to do. He will tell water consumers, and more than a million of us who own shares in water companies, that the Government plans to tear up the 25-year licences issued just before privatisation in 1989. Instead, it will promote the sort of "new era" of competition that has already done so much to multiply complaints against British Gas.

The Prime Minister has different political priorities. He is desperate for radical new initiatives. Last year he promised nuclear privatisation. This spring, he aims to neutralise Labour's free hits against water privatisation with a regime to curb the fat cats. At this stage, it is only safe to predict that more jobs will be lost and boardroom pay will rise steeply as companies rush to recruit expensive outsiders to redraw their

Water, water everywhere, but not much competition



GRAHAM SEABRIGHT

strategies. There, I fancy, similarities to gas and power will end. In theory, there is already scope for competition in water, recently expanded. But it has not had much impact because would-be rivals have to supply through their own pipes. Competition has therefore been limited to supplying new housing estates on borders between companies or big new industrial plants such as Toyota's.

One reason is that water is not uniform like electricity. Billions have been spent since 1989 to bring supplies up to proper standards of purity. That task is now largely complete but maintaining pure water requires eternal vigilance.

If water is deemed to be a commodity, it could be delivered via other people's pipes, just as BT, British Gas and regional electricity companies have to act as a common carrier for competitors. No company would have any incentive to improve water quality standards above the minimum statutory limit. But there should be little argument over non-potable water for industry.

The second bar to competition is that there is no national water grid. Thames can now move water all

round London. Companies in dry parts of the country avoid supply problems thanks to schemes to move supplies around their regions. But Bradford could not use supplies available from Kielder Water in Northumbria. Still less could "cheap water" from Kielder, or from Welsh valleys, be piped to customers suffering high bills and strained supplies in the South West.

Constructing a national bulk pipeline grid would cost billions which neither customers nor water companies would care to fund. Using river systems would be a commercial and accounting nonsense. So competition would still be between

neighbours, prepared to risk building a link to next door's network.

Benefits to all but the biggest customers are therefore likely to be slim. To start with, most of the average household bill is for sewage, where investment is building up again to satisfy EU requirements, and has to be paid for. No competition there. The cost of local distribution is also a far greater proportion of the price of water than of gas or electricity. They would still be monopoly common carriers, whose charges would reflect local costs. According to Ofwat, the biggest costs are the relative length of the distribution system and the amount of pumping needed. In other words, hilly rural areas, such as the South West, are bound to have higher costs. If water is pumped between rival reservoirs, it would still have to go through local treatment as well.

Would-be competitors would presumably pay local distribution charges based on prices regulated to allow a standard rate of return. Unless competitors are allowed to cherry-pick richer customers, this could yield surprising results. Ofwat figures show that South West has the lowest return on capital, about

half the national average. Without the inevitable regulatory fix, competition could raise prices there.

Ofwat aims to stop cuts in charges to bulk users being loaded on to domestic customers. Some should genuinely benefit, provided they have meters. Southern Water, for instance, could surely undercut small high-cost suppliers who have enclaves in Kent and Sussex. South Staffordshire might undercut Severn Trent in Wolverhampton. Others would seek to undo contracts to supply bulk water at cost to other companies and serve the customers direct. But this might not go far.

Customers would complain bitterly if hosepipes were banned when their company was supplying water elsewhere. And now new reservoirs would be built without guarantees. It would still be more economic for Yorkshire Water to build a pipeline up to Kielder than for Northumbria to build one down.

In the short run, water investors may have relatively little to fear from the presently slim political risk of the Government being re-elected. The average customer has even less to gain. Rather, the threat of change is likely to accelerate takeovers, as in electricity.

Further ahead, this lack of impact could provoke a future Tory government to take more extreme measures to force competitive supply. If the water regulator is given a statutory duty to promote competition, reform could eventually follow the same destructive path as in gas.

Tom Walker and Eric Reguly look into the courtship of BT and Cable and Wireless

On the road to a rocky marriage?

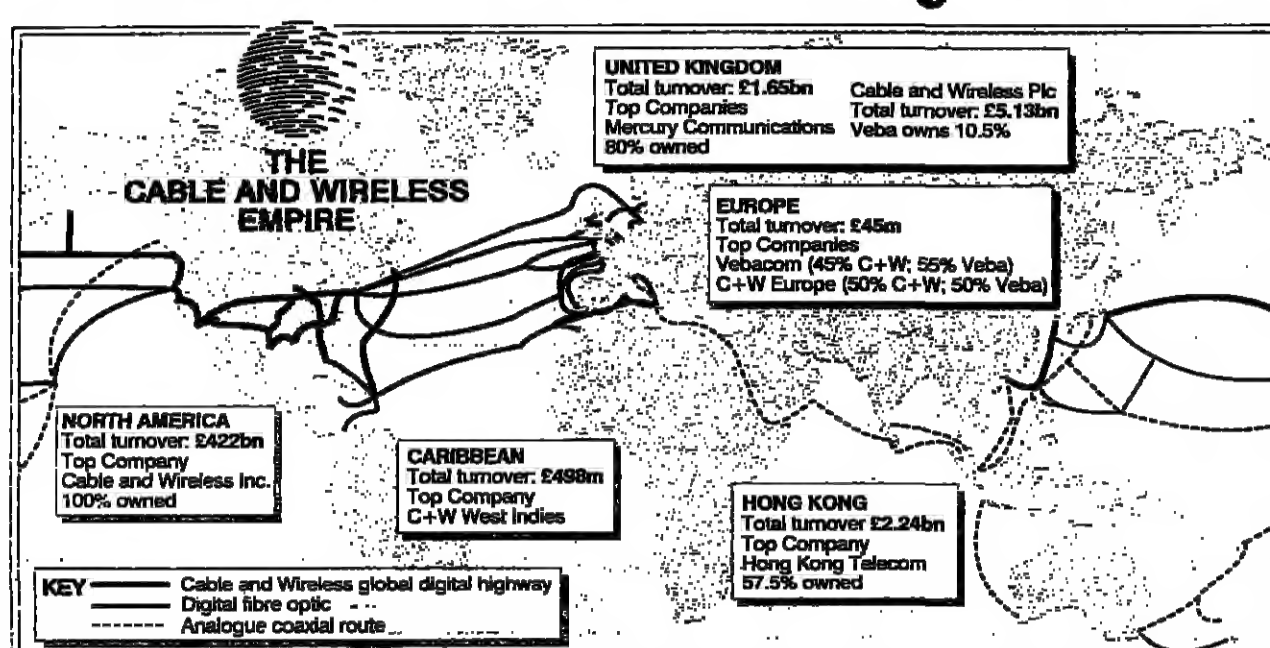
Cable and Wireless and British Telecom are courting each other again, but do not expect to see a fast marriage. The romance has just begun and it will take some time before each feels comfortable enough to take the leap.

The companies are saying privately that, given the enormous complexities of combining operations, joint ventures and alliances in some 50 countries, an agreement in principle may not be reached for months.

Assuming that AT&T, or any other phone giant with international ambitions, do not spoil their plans, it is possible that the merger will not reach completion within the year. At that stage, another problem will begin to present itself. Hong Kong will be on the verge of coming under Chinese rule, clouding the future of Hong Kong Telecom.

The company, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, is the driving force behind BT's pursuit of C&W. Hong Kong Telecom sits on the doorstep of the world's biggest potential market: if it were not in C&W's portfolio, the idea of joining forces with C&W would not even occur to BT.

Analysts are becoming increasingly concerned over the future of Hong Kong Telecom, without which C&W would be virtually moribund. Last year, it accounted for two-thirds of



C&W's operating profits of £1.2 billion. In the light of China's twinnedness over Taiwan and Peking's mounting rhetoric against Western interference, observers of the company are tending towards gloomier forecasts.

Negative speculation about Hong Kong Telecom could, at worst, cause BT to drop the idea of merging with C&W. Certainly, it would convince BT to value C&W shares at a lower level than C&W is seeking. A British diplomat asked: "Will it be possible after 1997 for a

telecoms outfit with its roots in the UK to be the prime supplier in Hong Kong?"

Hong Kong Telecom's monopoly on the Hong Kong domestic market has been taken away already. From next year it will be competing with Wharf's new T&T. Hutchison Telecom, which owns half of Britain's Orange mobile phone network, and New World Telephone in the territory. Brokers on the Hong Kong market are blaming fluctuations in the company's shares on concern over its

ability to compete. International calls, however, account for 60 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom's revenues and it will have exclusive rights to this franchise until 2006 if the Chinese authorities do not interfere. Since 40 per cent of international direct dialling income comes from calls to China, there is mounting speculation that Peking might do just that. The British diplomat said: "There is a great deal of ignorance over how China will operate here."

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, last week worried aloud that China was fully prepared to "tear out the roots of democracy" in the territory and substitute its own tried and trusted methods. This sense of fear is now affecting the market place, and even the Portfolio column of the *South China Morning Post* is warning of the perils of holding Hong Kong Telecom stock.

Earlier this month, Citic, one of the big "red chip" Chinese-controlled holding companies operating in Hong Kong, ominously sold 208 million shares in Hong Kong Telecom, reducing its stake to just over 10 per cent and raising £270 million. The *South China Morning Post* said: "We don't compliment the investors who took the Telecom shares off Citic's hands. We view Telecom as a dead investment because of changes in the local and international telecommunications scene."

Analysts are now asking the obvious question: If major Chinese interests are getting out of Hong Kong, why does BT want to get in? In an ideal world of respect for the Basic Law, Hong Kong Telecom should be in a good position to make vast and profitable inroads into the Chinese fixed and mobile phone markets. But in Hong Kong these days it is difficult to find believers in the post-1997 scenario. The company itself is putting on a brave face, preferring to concentrate on analysts' predictions that this year, at least, its profits should grow by about 15 per cent. At last year's annual meeting — which lasted ten minutes — not one shareholder asked a question of Lord Young of Graffham, then Hong Kong Telecom's chairman, about the company's future. And around the same time *Asian Business* magazine voted Hong Kong Telecom the most admired company in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong

Telecom is attempting to slim its workforce of 14,000, the third largest in Hong Kong. Senior executives, some of whom earn more than a million Hong Kong dollars per year (£90,000) are being offered cash-heavy redundancy packages. In all, 2,500 jobs should be cut over the next three years.

Judging Hong Kong Telecom's future is just one of the problems surrounding the merger of C&W and BT. Another is convincing the 50 or so countries in which C&W operates that the merger would not constitute a change in ownership.

The governments of these countries have the right to revoke the C&W operating licences and auction them if control changes.

That is one of the main reasons C&W and BT are pursuing the idea of a reverse takeover, in which C&W would become the technical owner of the much larger BT, instead of the other way around.

C&W could then make the argument that the company, and therefore its operating licences, have remained intact. Whether the authorities in Sierra Leone and Diego Garcia will buy this line of thinking is open to question.

Another advantage of a reverse takeover is that it would save BT several billion pounds. If BT acquires C&W, it would be forced under the rules of the Hong Kong stock exchange to buy out the minority shareholders of Hong Kong Telecom. If C&W acquires BT, there would be no such obligation.

Back in Britain, the hurdles loom less large but will nonetheless take a lot of management time to sort out. C&W would have to sell its 80 per cent stake in Mercury Communications, BT's main competitor, before the merger would be allowed to proceed. C&W would also have to unload its half interest in Mercury One-2-One, the mobile phone company, because BT owns 60 per cent of Celine, its rival. Analysts say that the C&W's Mercury stake is worth about £1.5 billion. Potential buyers include Bell Canada International, which owns the remaining 20 per cent, AT&T, which has been looking for a way to make a splash in the British market, or any of the big European telephone companies with plans to create a pan-European phone network.

Britain's cable companies would be candidates too. Combining them with Mercury would create an operation with both national and residential coverage — in effect a small version of BT. Investors will have to have patience. In the long term, C&W and BT together will be a formidable force. In the short term, however, things look messy.



C&W would have to shed its Mercury One-2-One stake

RADIO CHOICE

Computers in the firing line

The Afternoon Shift. Radio 4. 3.00pm

There has been a seriously under-reported outbreak of French nationalism. Five thousand protesters outside the Bastille in Paris have made a bonfire of American and Japanese personal computers. With a 15 per cent rating in a public opinion poll, their manifesto is the rescue of French culture, an objective achievable only through the expulsion of all imported computers from French soil. Microsoft France will fight back with *Fenêtre France*, using PCs programmed exclusively with French icons plus an inbuilt random non-cooperation factor designed to appease militant nationalists. Alice Furiaud's report for *The Afternoon Shift* is dated April 1.

Cultural Baggage: The Suit. Radio 3. 8.55pm

Nobody mentions comfort in this kaleidoscopic picture of why we wear suits. The image of authority is there, as you'd imagine. And the suggestion of power. And peacock splendour, and nobility. There's the man whose jacket has a bright blue lining, invisible except when the jacket is thrown over his chair to give the office a cheerful air. An image consultant suggests that election-conscious Tories should begin to loosen up and to stop looking complacent all the time, whereas Liberal Democrats need to look more like a party fit to govern. But, as I said earlier, nobody in this programme even mentions comfort.

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Charlie Jordan 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo and at 11.00 Conferences 12.00 Lisa (Anson) 2.00 Nelly Campbell 4.00 Dave Warren 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert 10.00 Mary Anne Hobbs Midnight Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester 6.00 Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thompson 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Grey 7.30 Malcolm Lawcock and at 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lytton 10.00 Radio Days. Music from the BBC Big Band 10.30 The Jamblers 12.05pm Dicky Farnsworth with Jazz Notes 1.00 Steve Macken 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 3 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.30 The Breakfast Programme 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, incl 10.35 News from Europe, 11.30 News, Food News 12.00 Midday with Mar, incl 12.30pm Moneycheck, and at 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 Russia on Five 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Westley Winners 1986 — Liverpool v Everton 8.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Watt 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Sheridan 2.00pm Anna Reisman 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sean Bolger 10.00 James White 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 4

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 5

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 6

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 7

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 8

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 9

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

RADIO 10

6.00am On Air. Tchaikovsky (Souvenir de Florence). Haydn (Piano Trio in C). Vaughan Williams (Norfolk Rhapsody No 1). Kreis (Symphony in D). 8.05 Schumann (Overture, Genesvise). Rebecca Clarke (Volsa Sonata). 9.00 The Monday Match Liverpool v Newcastle 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05pm The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

Lloyds Bank Interest Rates for Personal Customers

OVERDRAFTS

	% Per Month	% APR*
Classic Account Standard, Current Account Standard**	1.45	18.8
Choice Account and High Interest Cheque Account Standard		
Budget Account	1.50	19.5
Unauthorised**	2.00	26.8

LOANS

	% Per Month	% APR*
Professional Studies Loan Scheme	0.70	8.7
Graduate Personal Loan	0.72	8.9

*The APR does not take into account any additional charges (eg arrangement fees/securities charges/monthly fees) which may be applicable.
**This rate will also be applied by Lloyds Private Banking Limited.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Investment Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£100,000+	5.25	3.94	5.13	3.85
£ 50,000+	5.00	3.75	4.89	3.67
£ 25,000+	4.66	3.49	4.55	3.41
£ 10,000+	4.25	3.19	4.17	3.13
Below £10,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

30 Day Savings	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.85	2.74	3.59	2.66
£10,000+	3.40	2.55	3.35	2.51
£ 5,000+	3.10	2.33	3.06	2.30
Below £5,000	0.50	0.38	0.50	0.38

Instant Savings Account	Annual Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£25,000+	3.55	2.66	3.49	2.62
£10,000+	3.20	2.40	3.15	2.36
£ 5,000+	2.75	2.06	2.72	2.04
£ 500+	2.40	1.80	2.37	1.78
Below £500	1.00	0.75	1.00	0.75

Tessa	6.50% Tax-Free
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Deposit Account	Half-yearly Option		Monthly Option	
	Gross %	Net %	Gross %	Net %
£1+	0.25	0.19	0.25	0.19

Interest rates may vary from time to time. *This notice lists current rates.
GROSS - The annual interest rate before deduction of basic rate income tax (where applicable).
NET - The annual interest rate after deduction of basic rate income tax (where applicable).
TAX-FREE - The annual interest rate when interest is exempt from income tax.
Interest is normally paid at the net rate, unless the Account falls within an exempt category or the Account-holder qualifies to receive interest gross.

These rates of interest apply with effect from 1 April 1996

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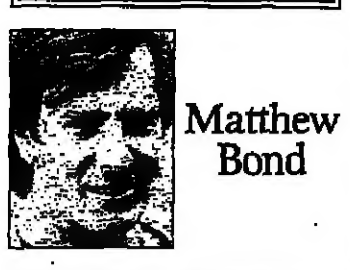
High jinks and low comedy in the Highlands

Someone one day tells Hamish Macbeth that his job as village bobbie is safe until Birnam Wood knocks on the door of the police house at Lochduh. Well, I shan't be the slightest bit surprised. There are some very strange people in Lochduh. In fact, if a couple of hundred Caledonian pines are going to march on their roots and start walking anywhere, it will be Lochduh. But not yet awhile. Birnam Wood is staying put and PC Macbeth can sleep some more. For in the battle of the glens that Sunday night has suddenly become, Hamish Macbeth (BBC1) should put the aid alliance of the Finlay and Camerons in Dr Finlay (ITV) to flight quicker than you can say "clan uprising". This will be jolly unfair, because Dr Finlay is excellent television - well acted and skilfully directed - but it is no match for the inhabitants of Lochduh. Hamish Mac-

beth, you see, has a not very secret weapon: s-e-x. Last night, for instance, it was either Dr Cameron (Ian Bannen) in his combinations (actually, he was out of them but it's a long story) or the fair Alex (Valerie Gogan) in her scalloped semmit and drawers. The choice, as they say, was yours. Mine was Hamish Macbeth, where it wasn't just the police house that was a pulsing with passion. Given the early hour at which the programme is shown, much of this passion is, of necessity, tastefully sublimated but the intention must have been clear to anyone who saw Esme (Anne Lacey) tempt Rory (Brian Pettifer) with a "nice... slow... three-minute... poached egg". In the village pub, things were similarly torrid and calorie-packed. Agnes (Barbara Rafferty), depressed by the news that her husband was "firing blanks", had slipped into something red and

tight and was promising a handsome young stranger that he hadn't seen anything until he had seen her "sticky toffee pudding". Thankfully, he never did; it would have been incest, as the story turned out. Nevertheless, it was something of a relief when Macbeth's tongue sandwiches turned out to be two bits of white sliced with nothing worse than a bit of mad cow in-between.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Such relentlessly flirtatious fare could become tedious, were it not for some wonderful, full ensemble acting and generous dollops of highly photogenic Scottish scenery. The combination is such a winning one that you forgive the occasional lapse, such as a slapstick finale at sea that will have given the local coastguard nightmares for years to come and a comic subplot that I am sure was borrowed from somewhere else. Accidentally feeding his cattle with

moment we began with a dream sequence of Dr Cameron stumbling through some misty Scottish countryside towards an alarming encounter with a mysterious hooded figure. It was clear this was to be no ordinary episode. It was not. Alarmed by his dream and alarmed still further when he saw the same hooded figure on the back of a wagon of itinerant Irish potato pickers, Dr Cameron spent much of the episode doing a fair impersonation of Private Fraser in *Dad's Army*.

There are still some things you don't interfere with, he moaned. Such as Janet, I thought. Meanwhile, back at the other subplot, Dr Finlay (David Rintoul) had got stuck at the r's in his medical dictionary. Was it typhoid or typhus, that the Brigadier was suffering from? Turned out to be a rare, non-infectious form of the latter. Good news for the diagnostic skills of Dr Finlay, but bad

news for the Brigadier. He died of a heart attack shortly afterwards.

The two stories came together in traditional manner, with the villagers of Tannochbrae convinced that it was the Irish work-gang spreading typhus. "We wouldn't be the first tattie-hawkers to be roasted alive," said Molly, as she showed Dr Cameron the big padlock with which the farmer locked his workers into his barn. And thanks to the good doctor they were not the last, either. By now on friendly terms even with the mysterious hooded figure (name of B'anshee, nice woman), Dr Cameron set about the torch-wielding mob with a pitchfork. "They haven't even got the decency to wear their black-shirts outside their semmits." Now there is a word you don't often see twice in a television review. Anyway, the Irish were all gratitude and fiddles, Molly prom-

ised him "the high jinks" but Dr Cameron, being a television Scotsman, preferred to get very drunk and fall into several puddles. Which is how, dear reader, he and his combinations came to be parted. Told you it was a long story.

Finally, there was relief for those who have found Lois Lane's new haircut just a little too sensible to make *The New Adventures of Superman* (BBC1, Saturday) quite the fun it used to be. A red kryptonite laser turned her into Ultra Woman. "Does that mean I have to wear glasses?" she asked her permanently bespectacled beau, Clark Kent. Nope, but it did mean she had to wear just the cutest little caped outfit, complete with fuchsia pink face-mask. What else? Oh yes, she asked Clark to marry her and he said yes. Sensible chap.

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1	
6.00am Business Breakfast (24648)	
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceelex) (53739)	
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceelex) (746448)	
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7462130)	
9.45 Killy (s) (1522223) 10.30 Good Morning (s) (10915)	
12.00 News (Ceelex) and weather (6225333)	
12.05pm Room for Improvement. Denise Watanabe and Sean Rafferty presents the morning TV series (s) (8003823)	
12.35 Going for Gold. The ebullient Henry Kelly returns with another series of his entertaining general knowledge quiz with European contestants (s) (8154081)	
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceelex) and weather (64803178)	
1.40 Neighbours (Ceelex) (s) (44008642)	
2.00 Columbo (s) (44907)	
3.30 Playdays (s) (1044536) 3.50 Bedtime and Bedtime (s) (7051710) 4.00 All About the Children (s) (1700851) 4.10 Fudge (Ceelex) (s) (2234623) 4.35 F.O.T. (Ceelex) (s) (8833333) 5.00 Newsround (Ceelex) (1346284) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceelex) (s) (1542888)	
5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceelex) (s) (449084)	
6.00 News (Ceelex) and weather (68)	
6.30 Regional News magazines (68)	
7.00 That's Showbiz. Mike Smith returns with the entertainment quiz. Joining him tonight are Les Hurst, Susan Kyd, Les Dennis, and Ainsley Harriott (Ceelex) (s) (4178)	
7.30 Watchdog. A special programme featuring the best of this year's motor sports (Ceelex) (s) (72)	
8.00 EastEnders (Ceelex) (s) (3825)	
8.30 Crime Beat. Street robbery is the crime Britons fear the most, even though it is rare. Martin Lewis reports on the use of surveillance cameras (Ceelex) (s) (2335)	
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceelex), regional news and weather (5772)	
9.30 Panorama. A look at Britain's relationship with one of the world's most autocratic regimes - Saudi Arabia. (Ceelex) (26675)	
10.15 FILM: Splitting Heirs (1992) with Eric Idle, John Cleese and Catherine Tate. John Cleese and Catherine Tate, brought up by Pakistani parents, discover he is the heir to a dukedom. Directed by Robert Young (1219813)	
11.40 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Barry Norman reviews Woody Allen's <i>Mighty Aphrodite</i> , with Helena Bonham Carter, <i>Broken Arrow</i> with John Travolta, and <i>Sergeant Bilko</i> , with Steve Martin (Ceelex) (s) (746287)	
12.10am The Road to Golgotha. The betrayal of Rob Duncan visits the crime city of Cornwall to reflect on the betrayal of Jesus by Judas (s) (5615802)	
12.25 FILM: Young Dillinger (1965, b/w) with Nick Adams and Mary Ann Mobley. John Dillinger and his girlfriend are kept to get married. Desperate for cash, they attempt a daring raid on her father's business. Directed by Terry O. Morse (181280)	
2.05 Weather (518847)	

BBC2	
6.00am Open University: Physics (7070178)	
6.25 Databases (7082913) 6.50 Ancient Athens (806555) 7.15 Sea Hear Breakfast News (4150178)	
7.30 Christopher Crocodile (s) (7798240)	
7.35 Postman Pat (s) (9979081) 7.50 Pen and the Pirates (s) (Ceelex) (s) (4123807) 8.15 Teenage Heart Throb (s) (Ceelex) (7285081) 8.40 Blue Peter (s) (Ceelex) (s) (8833333) 9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7469807) 9.30 Active (s) (Ceelex) (46739) 10.00 Playdays (s) (s) (8224739) 10.25 Star Trek (s) (4528336)	
10.50 The Tick (s) (1497888) 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) (s) (8158333)	
12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (13913)	
12.30pm Working Lunch (40555)	
1.00 Postman Pat (s) (42159468)	
1.15 Millions. Science and Engineering (s) (42147823)	
1.30 Brazilian Grand Prix (s) (s) (8008772)	
2.10 Rugby Union. The Daily Mail. The Daily Mail (s) (435197)	
3.55 News (Ceelex) (2327352)	
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (71) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (s) 5.00 Esther: Is Cooking Dead? (s) (5284)	
5.30 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden. Head gardener Harry Dodson and cook Ruth Mott recreate the home front of the Second World War (s) (Ceelex) (1/8) (65)	
6.00 FILM: Seven Faces of Dr Lao (1964) with Tony Randall and Barbara Eden. An oriental magician arrives in Alabama in the Old West and sets about fighting wrongs. Directed by George Pal (Ceelex) (4065875)	
7.35 The Phil Silvers Show. Classic American comedy (s) (b/w) (93094)	
8.00 Horizon: Fallout from Chernobyl (Ceelex) (s) (720081)	
8.30 Close Up. Memorable movie moments. Dennis Hopper chooses a scene from <i>Les Diaboliques</i> and Robert Rodriguez remembers the dream sequence from <i>Hitchcock's Spellbound</i> (s) (851333)	
9.00 The X Files: Squeeze. Scully is assigned to track down a serial killer whose victims are all killed inside locked rooms. With David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson (s) (Ceelex) (s) (287807)	
9.45 This Life: Living Dangerously. (S/1) Drama series about a group of law college friends who wind up working and living together in London (Ceelex) (s) (225772)	
10.30 Newsnight (Ceelex) (506223)	

Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century BBC2, noon
If Clifford Irving's hoax biography of the reclusive millionaire Howard Hughes was hardly the crime of the century it still makes a cracking good tale. Without offering any fresh glosses, and relying entirely on existing archive material, the film recalls the incident with clarity and pace. Towards the end of 1971 it was announced that the unknown Irving had written Hughes's life story with the subject's collaboration and approval. Irving produced letters from Hughes and spoke of more than 100 meetings. One of America's most reputable publishers paid Irving a lavish advance. The Hughes had a press conference by telephone from the Bahamas, saying he had never met Irving and denying the book's authenticity. Irving retorted by sticking to his claim.

Horizon: Fallout From Chernobyl BBC2, 8.00pm
When the Chernobyl nuclear reactor blew up ten years ago it released radioactivity 300 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. One million children were exposed to the fallout. Yet since then there has been no report of any danger to their health. A report from the International Atomic Energy Agency found no cause for alarm. But an epidemic of thyroid cancers in children suggested otherwise. When two British scientists, Dr Keith Baverstock and Professor Sir Dillyn Williams, raised their concerns they were accused of spreading panic and fabricating evidence. Vivienne King's film shows how Baverstock and Williams have fought their corner against such adversaries as the United States Government. The full effects of Chernobyl, however, may not yet have emerged.

Cutting Edge: Stepmammas Channel 4, 9.00pm
The three families who feature in this film hardly constitute a representative sample. But their experiences amply illustrate the difficulties for both parents and children trying to form new relationships. As one of the stepmothers says: "You cannot ask anyone else to love your children." Yet that is what step-parenting is about. For their part, children can get confused and resentful. Shelley's marriage gave her three step-children and despite what appears to have been her best efforts, two of them rejected her. Amanda lives with her step-mother, but their natural mother lives nearby. Although the two mothers try to get on, rows are frequent and the girls get caught in the middle. But step-parenting can work. Although they are only seven and five, Katie and Tia have it all worked out.

Acting With... Richard Wilson BBC2, 11.15pm
Last week in this slot Pamela Stiles conducted drama students through texts by Wilde, Stoppard and Pinter. Richard Wilson's workshop, by contrast, is based on improvisation, arguably a more difficult exercise. "The first thing I am looking for," he tells his charges, "is believability." And if acting is open and honest as well as believable, he says, the result can be pure beauty. Nobody pretends that Wilson's group of young actors reach that ideal every time. But his expert dissection of their attempts to get there underlines any notion that acting is a just matter of learning lines and not bumping into the furniture. Wilson suggests that one of the keys to a believable performance is thinking correctly. Another is the capacity to listen, advice that is ritually scorned by Wilson's most famous creation, Victor Meldrew.

BBC2	
6.00am GMTV (5905084)	
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7467449)	
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (8201888)	
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (2807081)	
10.35 This Morning (44807081)	
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6221517)	
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (5157178)	
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3165197) 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (5398738) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (5409404) 2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (5403739) 2.50 Garden Calendar (542913)	
3.30 News (Teletext) (7114468)	
3.35 Regional News (Teletext) (7113738)	
3.50 Rainbow Days (s) (8242623) 4.00 Toys TV (7057984) (s) (3.50 Old Boy Stories (s) (s) (8253739) 4.05 Scooby Doo (s) (s) (855820) 4.15 Monster Mania (Teletext) (254333) 4.45 Art Attack (s) (Teletext) (s) (9857139)	
5.10 The List (9878410)	
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (912517)	
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Teletext) (s) (492739)	
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (555772)	
6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (451642)	

HITV WEST	
As HTV WEST except:	
2.50pm-3.20 Cat Crazy (4342913)	
5.10-5.40 On Stage, Back Stage (9678410)	
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (543352)	
10.40-11.40 Wales at the Wigmore (780536)	

HITV WEST	
As HTV West except:	
12.25-12.30 My Story (6236538)	
12.55 Coronation Street (3165197)	
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79581333)	
1.55 Home and Away (8698888)	
2.25 The West at Work (54097791)	
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1917028)	
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9678410)	
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (12772)	
10.40 The West at Work - Focus (180410)	
11.10 Hunter (362178)	

HITV WEST	
As HTV West except:	
12.55 Home and Away (3165197)	
1.25 Chain Letters (79581333)	
1.55 A Country Practice (44988517)	
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (3276842)	
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9678410)	
6.25-7.00 Central News (843352)	
10.40 Sport in Question presented by Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves. With guests George Graham, Wil Carling and Phil Tufnell (780536)	
11.40 Hunter (510888)	
1.25am Bushell on the Box (2533192)	
2.45 Film: Dead Cert (730424)	
4.15 Joffender (8906205)	
5.20 Asian Eye (1584866)	

6.35am Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s)
(80301330)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (64449)

9.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r)
(s) (7475604) **9.25 New Gamesmaster (r)**
(s) (7478791) **9.55 California Dreams (r)** (6068178) **10.20 Mark and Mandy: (r)** (6213623) **10.50 Dennis (4808197)** **11.05 Extreme (r) (Teletext)**
(s) (3216333)

12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (81951)

12.30pm Sesame Street (25082)

1.30 A Box Full of Stories (Teletext) (s)
(68611739)

1.55 On Evallina, American musical short (r)
(Teletext) (44984159)

2.20 FILM: The Card (1952, b/w) with Alec Guinness, Glynis Johns, Valerie Hobson, Paula Clark, Joan Hickson and Michael Hordern. Classic Ealing comedy, directed by Ronald Neame (Teletext) (343791)

4.00 Jimmy's (r) (s) (7) 4.30 Fifteen to One (s) (81)

5.00 Keepers of the Kingdoms (r) (Teletext)
(8159)

6.00 The Cosby Show. Rudy discovers a snake in the basement (r) (Teletext) (46)


6.30 Hollyoaks. Maddy is worried — is she the victim of an April Fool's joke or is it the stalker after her? (Teletext) (s) (8)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (778807)

7.55 The Slit (344230)

8.00 Go Fishing. John Wilson tackles the huge conger eels that inhabit waters under the English Channel, and then tries for hard-sized Crucian carp that share with ducks a picturesque lake near Dore on the Norfolk-Suffolk border (Teletext) (s) (6536)

8.30 The Greatest. Profiles of Mary Rand, the athletics Golden Girl of the 1960s, and the croqueting legend Ian Botham. The contenders' claims are presented by panels chaired by Frances Edmunds and Danny Kelly (Teletext) (s) (6371)



Step-parenting realities (8.00pm)

5.00 Cutting Edge: Stepfamilies (Teletext) (s) (9081)

10.00 FILM: Wild at Heart (1990). An award-winning road movie starring Nicolas Cage and Laura Dern. Young lovers Cage and Dern are pursued through the Deep South by Dern's crazed mother and her gunshoe lover. Directed by David Lynch (Teletext) (s) (82161826)

12.50am The Late Late Show (Teletext) (s)

UK unemployment will continue to fall, says Shephard

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is telling the world's major industrialised countries that UK unemployment will continue to fall and job prospects will improve.

A confidential document for the Group of Seven jobs summit, which opens formally today in Lille, France, sets out the UK's record on jobs and firmly holds out the prospect of a continuing improvement in employ-

ment. President Chirac of France will open the summit by underlining the value of flexible labour markets, the core of the UK Government's approach to jobs.

Although each G7 country's position paper has been circulated to member states, advisers have decided that the documents will not be published. Britain's document emphasises the value of labour market flexibility, voices confidence that job prospects will contin-

ue to improve in the UK and says that unemployment is on a clear downward trend.

Gillian Shephard, Employment and Education Secretary, who is heading the UK's delegation, is expected to underline this view to the conference today. Although the number of people out of work and claiming benefit rose last month by 6,800, the UK paper is in line with ministers' beliefs that the Government's labour market reforms

mean that unemployment will largely continue to fall.

Treasury officials believe that UK unemployment, now 2.2 million, or 7.9 per cent, could fall below 6 per cent without any undue inflationary pressures.

The UK document argues that macro-economic stability — keeping inflation down and public finances settled — is the essential prerequisite for job creation. It also emphasises the importance of an

efficiently-working labour market and of allowing competition to flourish.

With earnings growth largely stable in the UK, Britain's paper emphasises the importance of wage flexibility. It claims that "pay has an important impact on job creation" and maintains that decentralisation of pay between regions, companies and individual occupations maximises the scope for the creation of new jobs.

Whitehall believes that the UK is approaching the summit in a position of considerable strength over jobs. Ministers and officials will be pressing the other G7 nations to endorse Britain's approach. However, the UK will acknowledge that individual countries must adapt the model of a flexible labour market to suit their own circumstances.

The UK document also underlines the Government's view of the

importance of the merger last year of the education and employment departments as a key tool in creating an integrated approach to schools, training and work.

Britain is likely to be discomfited at the conference, however, by speakers, led by President Chirac, making reference to the idea of a "social clause" to be attached to international trade agreements to provide minimum workers' standards.

Power bidders braced for MMC's report

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission's report on PowerGen and National Power's takeover ambitions in the electricity sector, due to be delivered to Ian Lang, Trade and Industry Secretary on Thursday, is expected to signal a further wave of consolidation in the sector.

As *The Times* reported last month, the MMC is expected to give a qualified go-ahead to PowerGen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.3 billion bid for Southern.

Mr Lang subsequently granted the MMC a two-week extension of its deadline, set to expire on Thursday. The request for an extension by the MMC, whose chairman Graeme Odgers also chairs the investigating panel, was interpreted in the City as an indication that the MMC required the time to draft stringent conditions to the proposed amalgams.

A go-ahead for the PowerGen/Midlands and National Power/Southern takeovers would run counter to the arguments put forward to the Office of Fair Trading and the MMC by Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Ofwat. Professor Littlechild was opposed to much of the takeover activity that engulfed the sector last year and is strongly opposed to

vertical integration between power generation companies and the regional electricity companies (RECs) responsible for distribution.

In spite of Professor Littlechild's views, the Government has already permitted vertical integration within the industry by way of last year's go-ahead for Scottish Power's £1.1 billion takeover bid for Manweb. When Mr Lang referred to the PowerGen/National Power bids last November he declared: "The decisions to make a reference do not in any way prejudice the question of whether or not either merger might operate against the public interest." He added: "In general, I do not believe that



Littlechild: opposition

vertical integration is inherently objectionable, whether in the electricity industry or elsewhere. However, in these two cases, the structural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition."

Six RECs were acquired in a multi-billion pound takeover spree last year, originally sparked by Trafalgar House's abortive attempt to acquire Northern. Several US utility companies are understood to be waiting on Mr Lang's statement on the MMC's findings before launching further forays into the UK electricity sector.

Speculation has swirled around the remaining independents, particularly Yorkshire Electricity and London Electricity. The share prices of PowerGen and National Power have also attracted support. This partly reflects expectations that the MMC will bless the proposed bids, but also reflects the belief that even the UK's two principal generating companies may not prove bid proof.

At its current quote of 534p, PowerGen is capitalised at £3.8 billion, while National Power, at 467p, is valued at £5.3 billion. City analysts argue that several US utility companies possess the financial muscle to launch takeover bids for company. Scottish Power, capitalised at £3.2 billion and Scottish Hydro, capitalised at £1.2 billion, are perceived as vulnerable but less attractive than their UK counterparts.



Graeme Odgers, Monopolies and Mergers Commission chairman, who requested an extension of its deadline

BT and C&W work on blueprint

BY SARAH BAGNALL

FINANCIAL advisers to British Telecom and Cable and Wireless remain locked in negotiations in an attempt to reach agreement on terms of a proposed £35 billion merger.

Indications over the weekend were that the senior executives of BT and C&W will not hold meaningful discussions until a detailed blueprint has been prepared. Sources close to the talks rejected speculation that a deal would be concluded within three weeks.

BT, under pressure in the UK because of harsh pricing directives proposed by Ofel, has been pushing for a merger for several months. Secret

talks started late last year after the ousting of Lord Young of Graffham and James Ross, respectively chairman and chief executive of C&W.

Initial talks between the management teams were called off, but late on Thursday C&W confirmed that discussions had been resumed. C&W's statement came in the wake of a 34p rise in its share price to a new 1996 peak of 511.5p, up 21.4p on the week. BT's shares were run up 14.4p to 348.4p and ended 6p higher on the week. Current discussions are being conducted between C&W's advisers, Goldman Sachs and Baring

Brothers, and BT's advisers, NM Rothschild.

Expectations are that the merger will be structured as a reverse takeover of BT and will include the payment of a special dividend of up to £6 billion to C&W shareholders. The deal could value C&W's shares at more than 550p.

A source close to the negotiations denied that C&W's board was set to ratify the deal at a board meeting this week. A merger of the telecoms groups is expected to lead to significant job losses. A report in the latest *Price Waterhouse Corporate Register* highlights the fact that BT has axed

88,500 jobs in the five years to end of March 1995. The redundancies, the largest recorded in the report, have reduced BT's workforce to 148,900. BT has disclosed the need for another round of job cuts to combat competitive pressures from rival telecom companies and cable V operators.

Several issues remain to be resolved, including the disposal of Mercury, which is 80 per cent owned by C&W and is BT's major UK-based rival, and Mercury One-2-One, C&W's 50 per cent-owned cellular phone operator.

Rocky marriage?, page 38

Borrowing overshoot 'may stop tax cuts'

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

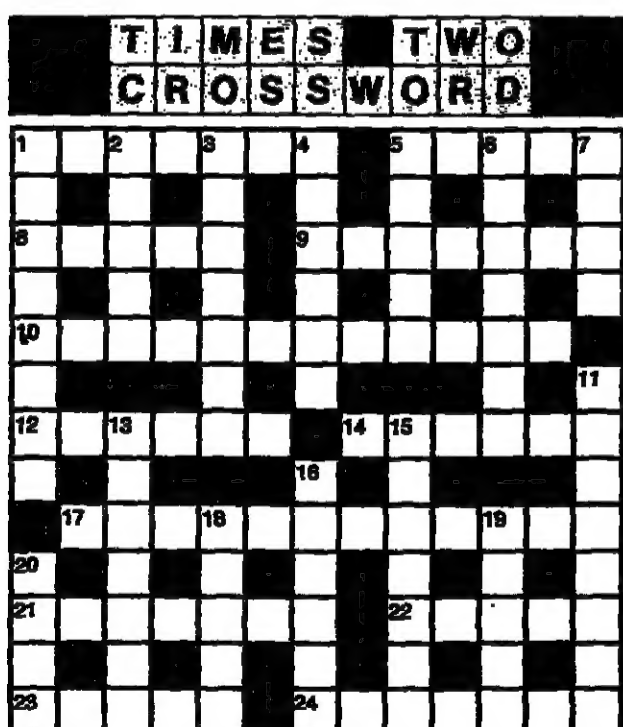
THE Chancellor may overshoot his public borrowing plans by £7 billion and £1 billion in the next two years, calling into question the advisability of tax cuts in November, the Ernst & Young ITEM Club says in a forecast today.

A combination of spending overshoots and lower than expected tax revenues lie behind the ITEM club's forecast of a Public Sector Borrowing Requirement of £29.5 billion in 1996-97, against the Chancellor's Budget forecast of £22.5 billion, and a 1997-98 PSBR of £26.7 billion, against the Budget projection of £15 billion.

The ITEM club is also looking for a PSBR for this tax year of £33.1 billion, well above the £29 billion forecast by the Government in November. "This will limit the magnitude of any tax cuts which could be announced for 1997 and seriously call into question the prudence of any more," the report says.

The ITEM club's gloomy predictions on public borrowing come in spite of its view that "it appears increasingly likely that by 1997 consumer spending could record its strongest growth since 1989".

Whereas last autumn, ITEM said that the risk appeared to be further economic weakness, it now expects that the economy may rebound more strongly than expected by late this year. It is currently forecasting growth this year of 2.3 per cent, well below the Government's 3 per cent estimate, and of 3.1 per cent in 1997.



No 744

ACROSS

- 1 Bird, beak with pouch (7)
- 5 Funny; magazine (5)
- 8 Go, put in (5)
- 9 Single cash payment (4,3)
- 10 Circular fair ride (5,2,5)
- 12 Missing portion (in MS) (6)
- 14 Solicitor (6)
- 17 To the Dark Tower he came (Browning) (6,6)
- 21 Refusing, hostile to, company (7)
- 22 Plumed military hat (5)
- 23 Powdered (5)
- 24 Say, Tuesday to Thursday (7)

DOWN

- 1 Introductory statement (8)
- 2 In a while (5)
- 3 Continue (5,2); fuss (5,2)
- 4 Wrestling hold; an admiral (6)
- 5 Small role; brooch (5)
- 6 Stonework (7)
- 7 Temporary accommodation (4)
- 11 City-wide traffic jam (8)
- 13 Colluders are in these (7)
- 15 Stimulated (7)
- 16 Loud, confused scene (6)
- 18 Scottish landowner (5)
- 19 With speed (5)
- 20 Tree; part of hand (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 743

- ACROSS: 1 Acme 3 Edipic 8 Toughen 10 Value 11 Dreadnought 13 Fabian 15 Player 17 Redoubtable 20 Mince 21 Barrage 22 Trickery 23 Deny
- DOWN: 1 Auto-da-fé 2 Mouse 4 Condo 5 Invigilator 6 Tolstoy 7 Crew 9 Hide-and-seek 12 Greenery 14 Burundi 16 Dumber 18 Brace 19 Simul

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Bid-target BET vows to increase dividend 20%

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND ROBERT MILLER

BET, the business services group, yesterday unveiled plans for a 20 per cent rise in next year's dividend in a last-ditch attempt to fend off the £1.9 billion hostile takeover bid from the rival Rentokil.

Under takeover rules, BET has until Friday to release any new material information relating to its defence. Yesterday, BET forecast that its dividend will be at least 6.15p in the year to March 29, 1997, a 20 per cent rise from this year's 5.1p.

Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of BET, which this week will continue its final presentations to institutional shareholders emphasising the future strategy of the group's six key areas of business,

dismissed Rentokil's bid as having no commercial logic.

Sir Christopher added: "BET has outperformed Rentokil over the past two years, confirming that BET does not need Rentokil. Rentokil needs BET and is trying to capture BET's future growth at the expense of our shareholders."

Clive Thompson, Rentokil chief executive, in response yesterday, said: "There is only one piece of new information in BET's announcement, and that is a lower than expected dividend increase. There is little credibility associated with dividend forecasts because this was the same BET board that twice halved its dividend, in 1992 and 1993." He said that dividends had to be paid from

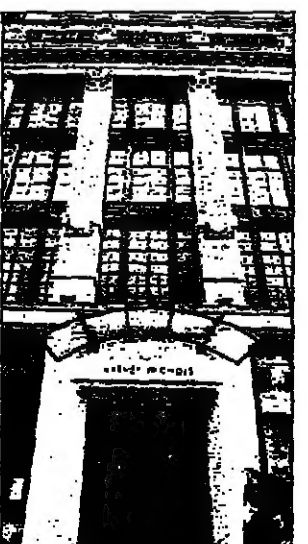
cash flow, and, at the interim stage last year, BET "had net debt of £114 million".

In response, a BET spokesman said: "The most recent research published by NatWest last week forecast a 5.6p dividend for next year and didn't even get to 6p until 1998." Dividend cuts of the early 1990s were a result of artificially high payouts as a legacy of the old BET, and debt at the half-way stage last year gave "a conservative gearing of just 30 per cent".

BET shares ended the week unchanged at 203p — just above the bid terms. Rentokil shares rose 4p, to 362p, valuing the cash-and-shares offer at 201.5p. Rentokil has until April 12 to bid more.

Sale time at Harvey Nichols

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR



Harvey Nichols: flotation

FURTHER details of the planned flotation of up to 49.9 per cent of Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge fashion store controlled by Dickson Concepts (International), based in Hong Kong, are expected this week.

Harvey Nichols, advised by Morgan Stanley, the investment banking house, and James Capel, stockbrokers, is expected to shortly publish a pathfinder prospectus on the placing which will focus on City institutions but may extend to investors in the US and continental Europe.

Dickson, led by the entrepreneur Dickson Poon, acquired Harvey Nichols from Burton Group for £53.7 mil-

lion in 1991. An operating loss of some £150,000 in 1992-93 was turned into an operating profit of around £6.5 million for 1994-95 on turnover up from 1992-93's £54 million to some £75 million.

Analysts estimate that pre-tax profits of close on £6 million for 1994-95 will rise to £8.6 million for 1995-96, on turnover estimated at more than £85 million. A pre-tax outcome of £11.4 million is estimated for the year to end-March next, on sales of £103 million, rising to £14.6 million for 1997-98. Since the acquisition, Harvey Nichols has spent £17 million upgrading the store and creating the "Fifth Floor" restaurant.

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